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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
KING-SIZE MARVEL TEAM-UP ANNUAL!
SPIDER-MAN™
AND THE HULK™
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G-GOT TO KEEP THESE GLOBES FROM TOUCHING--OR THEY'LL DESTROY THE EARTH!

MARVEL TEAM-UP® ANNUAL, Vol. 1, No. 2, 1979 issue. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Published annually. Copyright ©1979 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Printed in the U.S.A.

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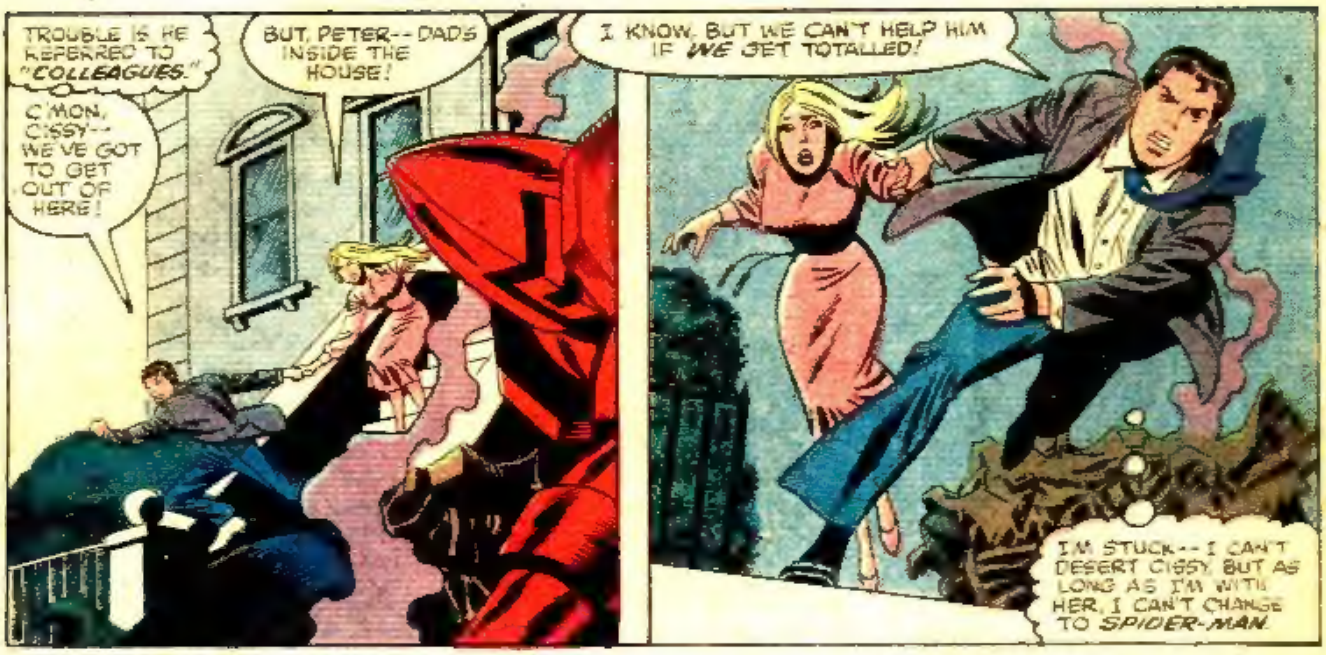
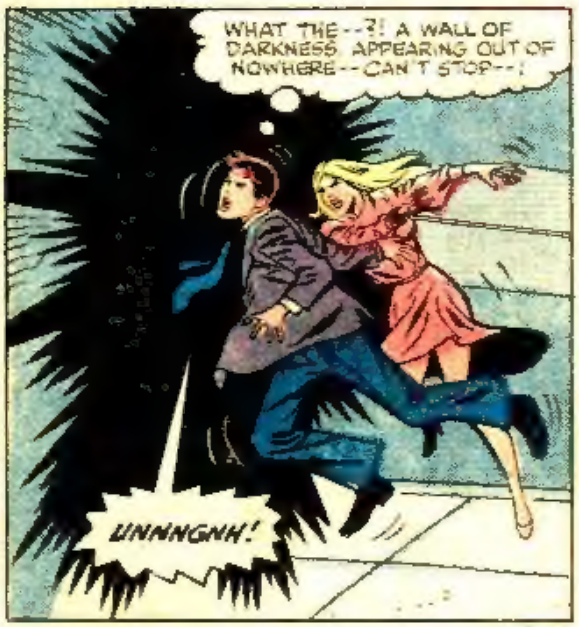
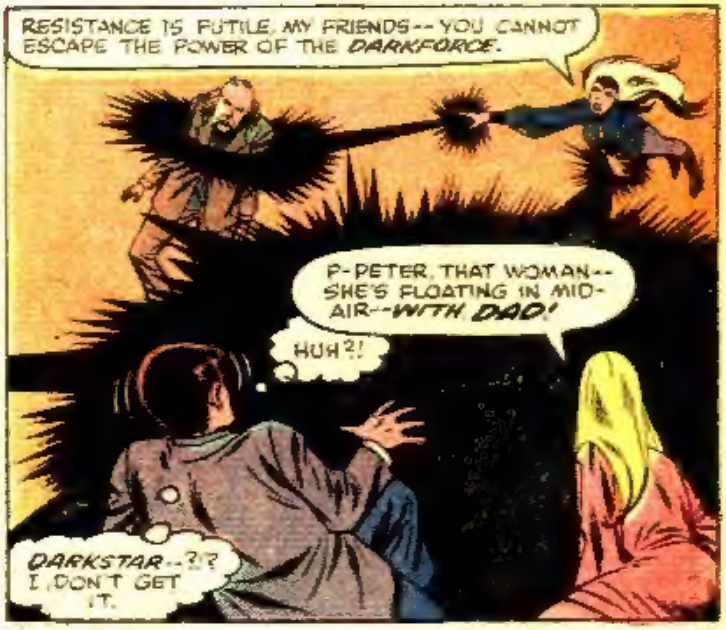
ENJOYING YOURSELF, HUH?
PARKER-- BENEATH THAT MILD-MANNERED, SUPER-STRAIGHT EXTERIOR, YOU ARE ONE FINE-- NAY, SCRUMPTIOUS-- HUNK O' GUY.
WANT TO COME IN FOR A NIGHTCAP? WE HAVE SODA, LEMONADE, ICED TEA, A COMFY SOFA...
LEAD ON, MacDUFF. THAT SOUNDS...
HOLD IT! MY SPIDEY-SENSE IS TINGLING-- AND THE CLOSER WE GET TO THE DOOR, THE MORE INTENSE IT GETS!
GOOD EVENING, MISS IRONWOOD. MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
SKRASH!
YYYIIIIII--!!
HOLY-- THE CRIMSON DYNAMO!
THAT RUSSIAN SUPER-BADDY WHO'S ALWAYS BATTLING IRON MAN!
PETER-- WHO IS THAT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS, CISSY-- JUST GET BEHIND ME. I'LL HANDLE THIS!
I HOPE.
FOOL! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN STAND UP AGAINST MY ARMORED MIGHT?
I DUNNO, TINHEAD, BUT I'LL SURE GIVE IT THE OLD COLLEGE TRY!
HE'S OFF-BALANCE ON THESE STEPS-- IF I'M LUCKY, HE'LL FIGURE HE TRIPPED OVER HIS OWN FAT FEET...
...AND NEVER REALIZE THAT IT WAS MY SPIDER-STRENGTH THAT CLOBBERED HIM.
BEAUTIFUL.
HA-HA-HA!







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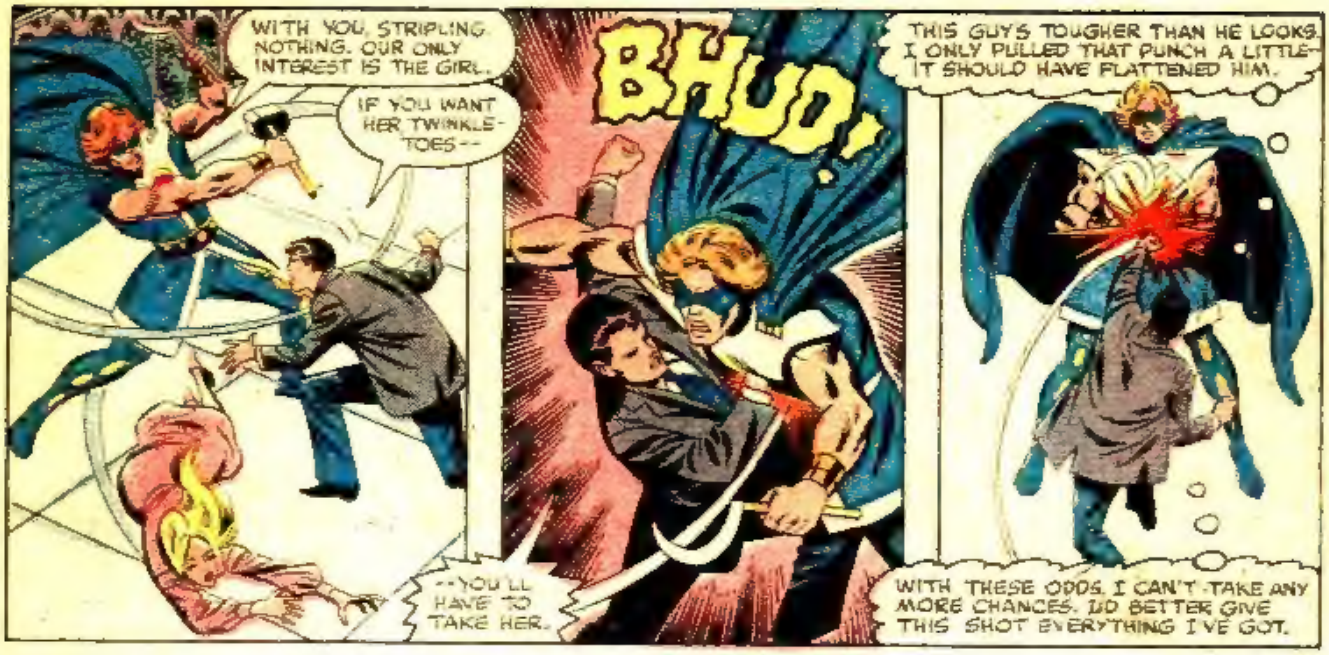
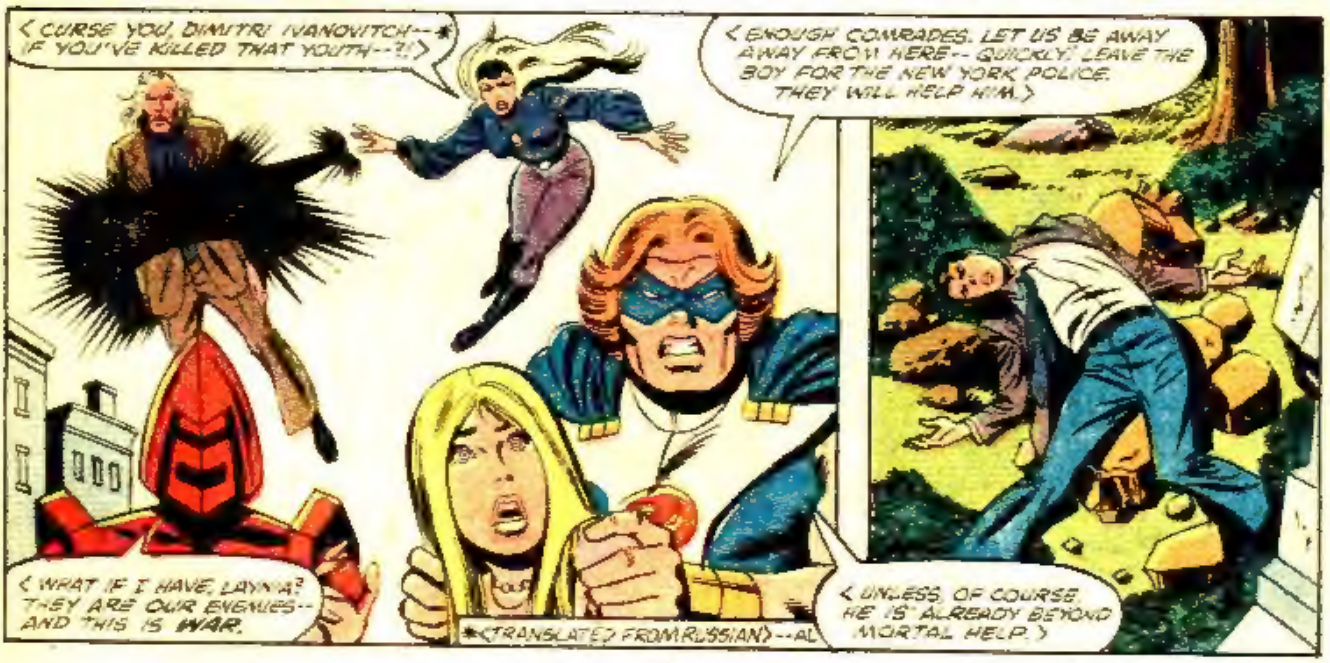

WITH YOU, STRIPLING. NOTHING. OUR ONLY INTEREST IS THE GIRL.
IF YOU WANT HER TWINKLE-TOES--
--YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE HER.
BHUD!
THIS GUY'S TOUGHER THAN HE LOOKS. I ONLY PULLED THAT PUNCH A LITTLE- IT SHOULD HAVE FLATTENED HIM.
WITH THESE ODDS, I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE CHANCES. I'D BETTER GIVE THIS SHOT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT.

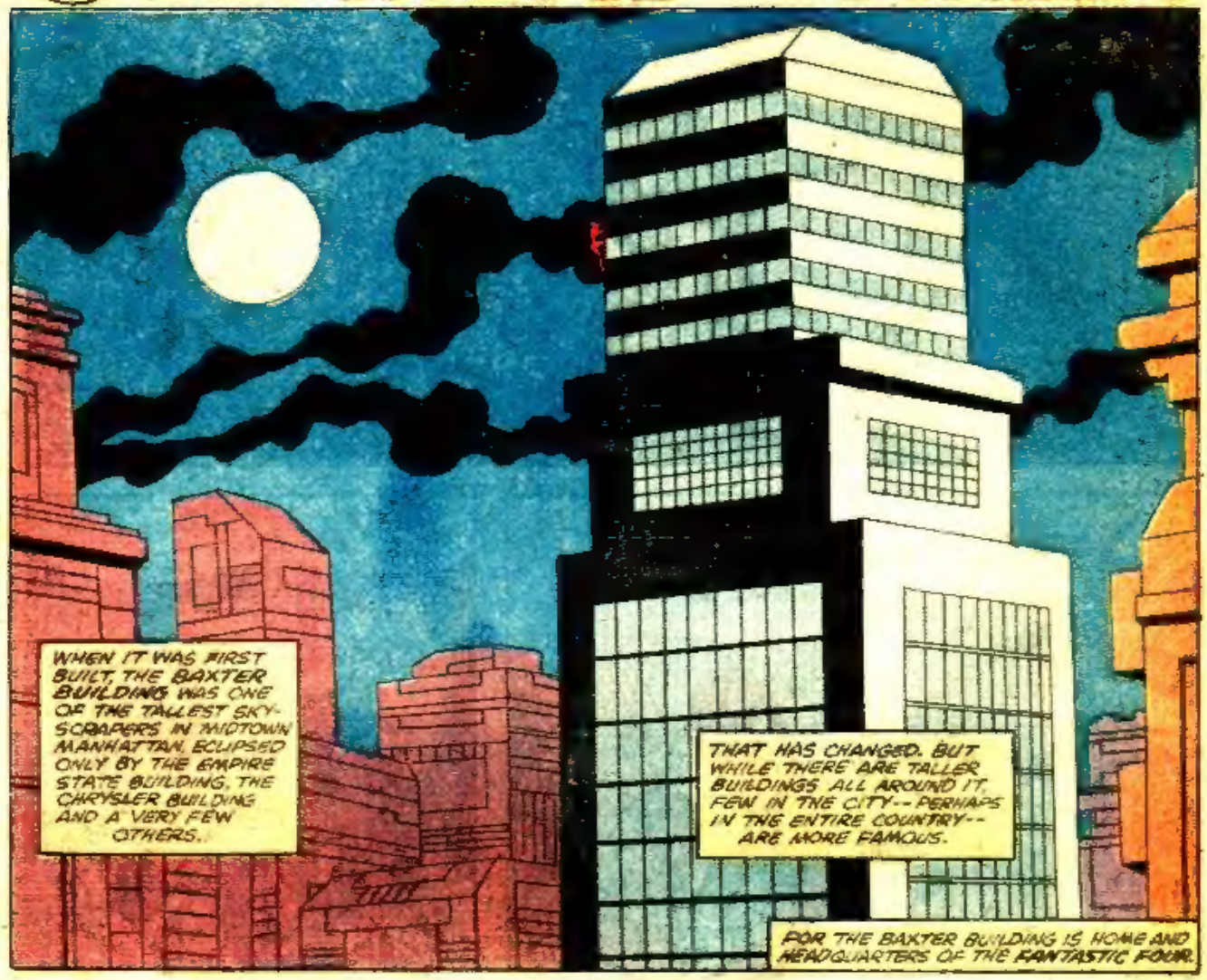
NO! HE BLOCKED MY PUNCH WITH HIS HAMMER-AND-SICKLE--!
SKOW

YOU'VE LEARNED TOO LATE AMERICAN, THAT VANGUARD'S POWER IS TO TURN A FOE'S AGGRESSIVE FORCE BACK UPON HIM.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO TRIP ME BEFORE, BOY--!

...BUT I GUARANTEE YOU'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE TRYING IT AGAIN.
WHAMMO!


< CURSE YOU, DIMITRI IVANOVITCH-- IF YOU'VE KILLED THAT YOUTH--?! >
< ENOUGH COMRADES. LET US BE AWAY AWAY FROM HERE-- QUICKLY! LEAVE THE BOY FOR THE NEW YORK POLICE. THEY WILL HELP HIM. >
< WHAT IF I HAVE, LAVINIA? THEY ARE OUR ENEMIES-- AND THIS IS WAR.
*<TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN>--AL
< UNLESS, OF COURSE HE IS ALREADY BEYOND MORTAL HELP. >

CHAPTER 2 A FRIEND IN NEED!



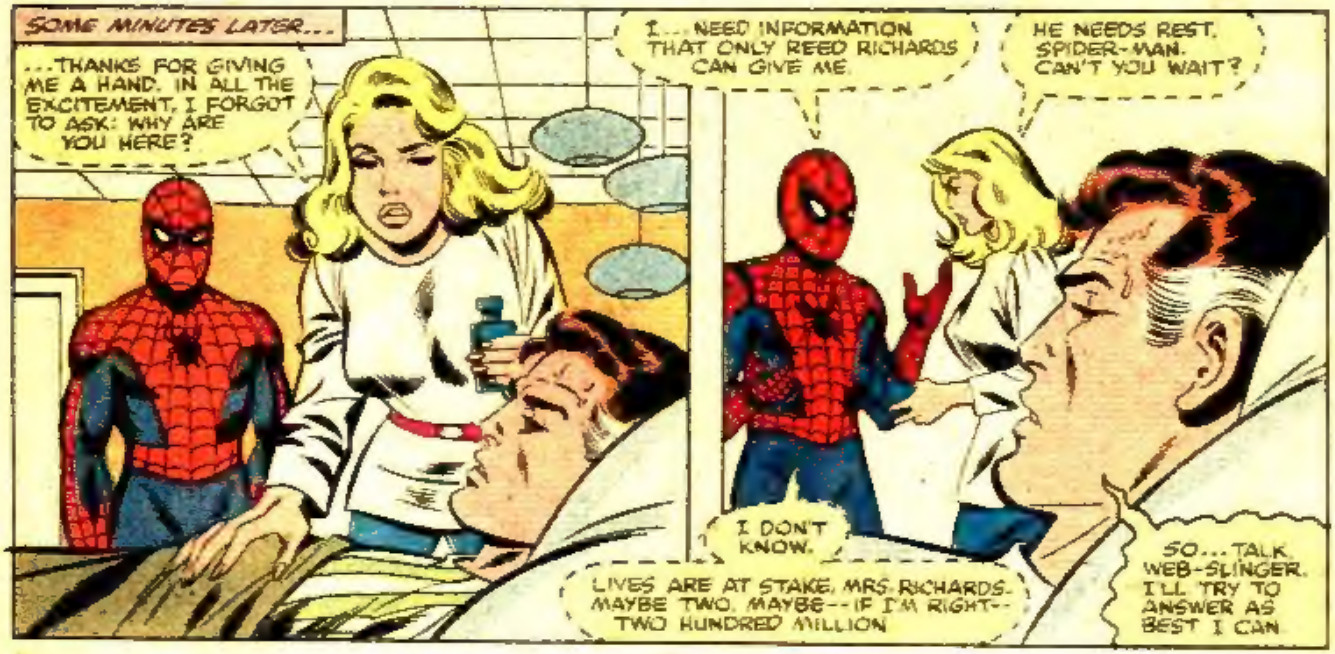
ALL RIGHT, SKULKER-- WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--
SPIDER-MAN!?!
IN THE FLESH, STRETCH-- LONG TIME, NO SEE.

I'M SORRY FOR BUSTING IN ON YOU LIKE THIS, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE TIME FOR SOCIAL AMENITIES. I NEED YOUR HELP.
YOU COULD HAVE PICKED... A BETTER TIME, I'M AFRAID. I... I...
YOU OKAY? YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.

I... I'M... NOT...!!
HEY!
CRIPES, HE PASSED OUT!

HE'S FLUSHED, SWEATY-- AND RUNNING SO HIGH A FEVER I CAN FEEL IT THROUGH MY GLOVES.
WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME--REED!?!
HUH--???

SPIDER-MAN, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?!
NOTHING-- HONEST! I NEVER TOUCHED HIM. HE FAINTED ON HIS OWN.
IS HE SICK?
IT'S FLU, BUT IT COULD BE SERIOUS HELP ME GET HIM INTO BED.


SOME MINUTES LATER...
...THANKS FOR GIVING ME A HAND. IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT, I FORGOT TO ASK: WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I... NEED INFORMATION THAT ONLY REED RICHARDS CAN GIVE ME.
HE NEEDS REST, SPIDER-MAN. CAN'T YOU WAIT?
I DON'T KNOW.
LIVES ARE AT STAKE, MRS. RICHARDS. MAYBE TWO, MAYBE-- IF I'M RIGHT-- TWO HUNDRED MILLION
SO... TALK, WEB-SLINGER. I'LL TRY TO ANSWER AS BEST I CAN

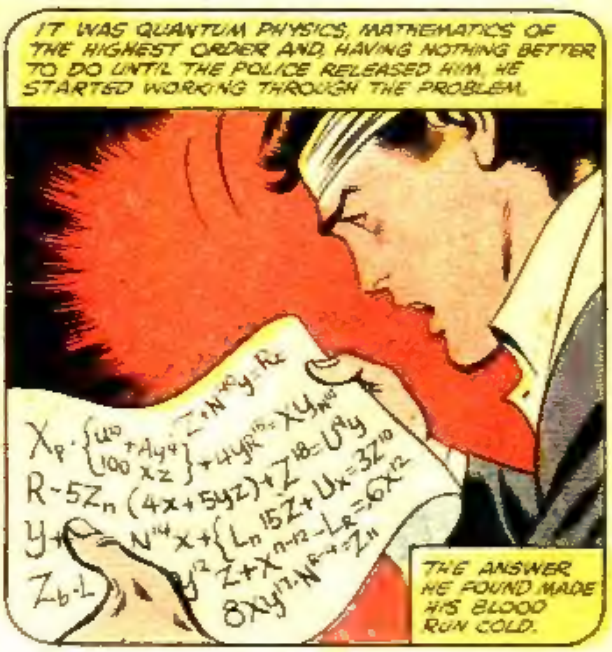
REED, YOU MUSTN'T! REMEMBER WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID--!
I'M ONLY LISTENING TO WHAT THE LAD HAS TO SAY, SUE--NOT RUNNING A MARATHON.
AFTER ALL THE HELP SPIDER-MAN HAS GIVEN US IN THE PAST, IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO.

IT DOESN'T TAKE SPIDEY LONG TO TELL THE RICHARDS WHAT HAPPENED (HIS TALE EDITED SLIGHTLY, TO PRESERVE HIS DUAL IDENTITY).
HE AWOKE IN THE GARDEN JUST AS NEW YORK'S FINEST, SUMMONED BY AN ALARMED NEIGHBOR, MADE THEIR ENTRANCE.

HE TOLD THE DETECTIVES ALL HE KNEW--A COUPLE OF DOZEN TIMES.
...YOU SAY THESE SUPER-GOONS KIDNAPPED PROFESSOR IRONWOOD AND HIS DAUGHTER--ANY IDEA WHY?
NONE.
THE PROF HAVE ANY ENEMIES? WHAT DID HE TEACH, ANYWAY?

NO ENEMIES I KNEW OF. AND HE TAUGHT COSMOLOGY.
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S A BRANCH OF ASTRONOMY DEALING WITH THE ORIGINS AND STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSE. PROFESSOR IRONWOOD WAS ONE OF THE TOP MEN IN THAT FIELD IN THE WORLD.
LOOK, CAN I GO NOW?

THEY DIDN'T LET PETER GO, BUT THEY LET HIM WAIT IN PROFESSOR IRONWOOD'S STUDY WHILE THEY FINISHED SEARCHING THE REST OF THE HOUSE FOR CLUES.
HE WAS IDLY RUMMAGING THROUGH THE PAPERS ON THE PROFESSOR'S DESK, CHAFING UNDER THIS ARBITRARY, ENFORCED INACTIVITY, WHEN A PAGE OF EQUATIONS CAUGHT HIS EYE.


IT WAS QUANTUM PHYSICS, MATHEMATICS OF THE HIGHEST ORDER AND, HAVING NOTHING BETTER TO DO UNTIL THE POLICE RELEASED HIM, HE STARTED WORKING THROUGH THE PROBLEM.
THE ANSWER HE FOUND MADE HIS BLOOD RUN COLD.

YOU PUZZLED THIS OUT?
A... FRIEND OF MINE DID.
I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM. THERE AREN'T MANY PHYSICISTS IN THE COUNTRY CAPABLE OF EVEN UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S HERE, MUCH LESS ITS IMPLICATIONS.
THEN MY... FRIEND IS RIGHT?
LORD HELP US. YES.
THIS IS A FORMULA FOR AN UNCONTROLLED MATTER/ANTI-MATTER REACTION. THE FIRST STEP TO CREATING AN ANTI-MATTER BOMB.
HIP HIP HOORAY.
YOU DON'T SOUND IMPRESSED, SUE.
SHOULD I BE?
WE'VE GOT A-BOMBS, H-BOMBS, GAMMA BOMBS, COBALT BOMBS, NEUTRON BOMBS, Q-BOMBS! WE'VE GOT BOMBS RUNNING OUT OF OUR EARS. WHAT'S ANOTHER, MORE OR LESS?
COMPARED TO THIS, MY DARLING, OUR MOST POWERFUL H-BOMB RATES ABOUT AS HIGHLY AS A STONE IN A SLINGSHOT.
AN ANTI-MATTER BOMB--IF PROPERLY PLACED--IS CAPABLE OF ERASING THE ENTIRE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.
IT'S A LONG WAY FROM THIS THEORY TO THAT REALITY, DR. RICHARDS.
NOT FOR DANIEL IRONWOOD. YOU SEE, SPIDER-MAN, 30 YEARS AGO, HE WAS ONE OF THE GIANTS OF THE NEWBORN NUCLEAR AGE.
SOME HAILED HIM AS ANOTHER EINSTEIN--UNTIL HE WAS BLACK-LISTED DURING THE McCARTHY ERA. HE LEFT NUCLEAR PHYSICS FOR ASTRONOMY AND NEVER LOOKED BACK.
UNTIL NOW.
TO EVEN THINK OF CREATING SUCH A WEAPON WOULD KILL THE DANIEL IRONWOOD I KNEW. BUT IF ANY MAN ON EARTH IS CAPABLE OF DOING IT, IT IS HE.
YOU'RE RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN. HE MUST BE FOUND. I'LL DO ALL I CAN TO HELP YOU.

3 BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE A HULK?
CASTLE ROCK, MONTANA-- A SMALL COW TOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, TURNED LITERALLY OVERNIGHT INTO A FAIR-SIZED CITY WITH THE OPENING OF A HUGE STRIP MINE OUT ON THE PRAIRIE.
AT FIRST, EVERYONE WAS PLEASED AS PUNCH TO HAVE ROXXON OIL AS A NEIGHBOR. PEOPLE THOUGHT OF THE JOBS THE MINE WOULD CREATE, THE TAXES AND BUSINESS IT WOULD GENERATE. TO THEM, IT SEEMED LIKE THE AMERICAN DREAM COME TRUE.
BUT THAT DREAM HAD A PRICE-- AND THIS IS PART OF IT. FIGHTS ALMOST EVERY NIGHT BETWEEN ROUSTABOUTS AND WRANGLERS, MURDER, ROBBERY-- SO MUCH CRIME, IN FACT, THAT A FORCE OF FIFTY COPS CAN'T HANDLE A JOB THAT USED TO BE DONE BY TWO.
AND CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF TONIGHT'S FOURTH OF JULY PUNCH-UP, ONE ROBERT BRUCE BANNER--
--PERHAPS BETTER KNOWN TO US AS THE INCREDIBLE HULK

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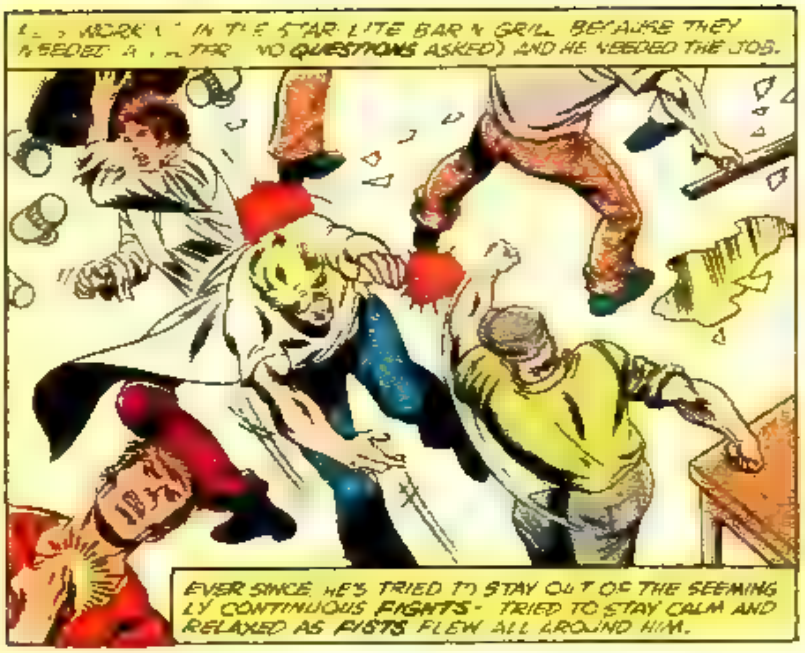
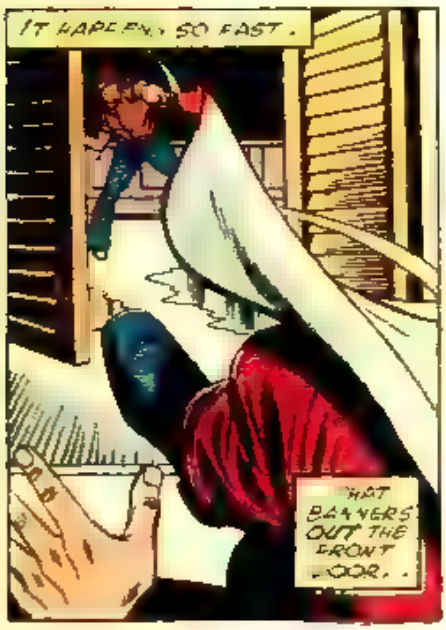

...WORK[ED] IN THE STAR LITE BAR N GRILL BECAUSE THEY NEEDED A ... FAST (NO QUESTIONS ASKED) AND HE NEEDED THE JOB.
EVER SINCE, HE'S TRIED TO STAY OUT OF THE SEEMINGLY CONTINUOUS FIGHTS - TRIED TO STAY CALM AND RELAXED AS FISTS FLEW ALL AROUND HIM.

SOMETIMES THOUGH, THAT SIMPLY ISN'T POSSIBLE.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING--?
WHOUUFFF!!


IT HAPPENS SO FAST.
THAT BANNER'S OUT THE FRONT DOOR..

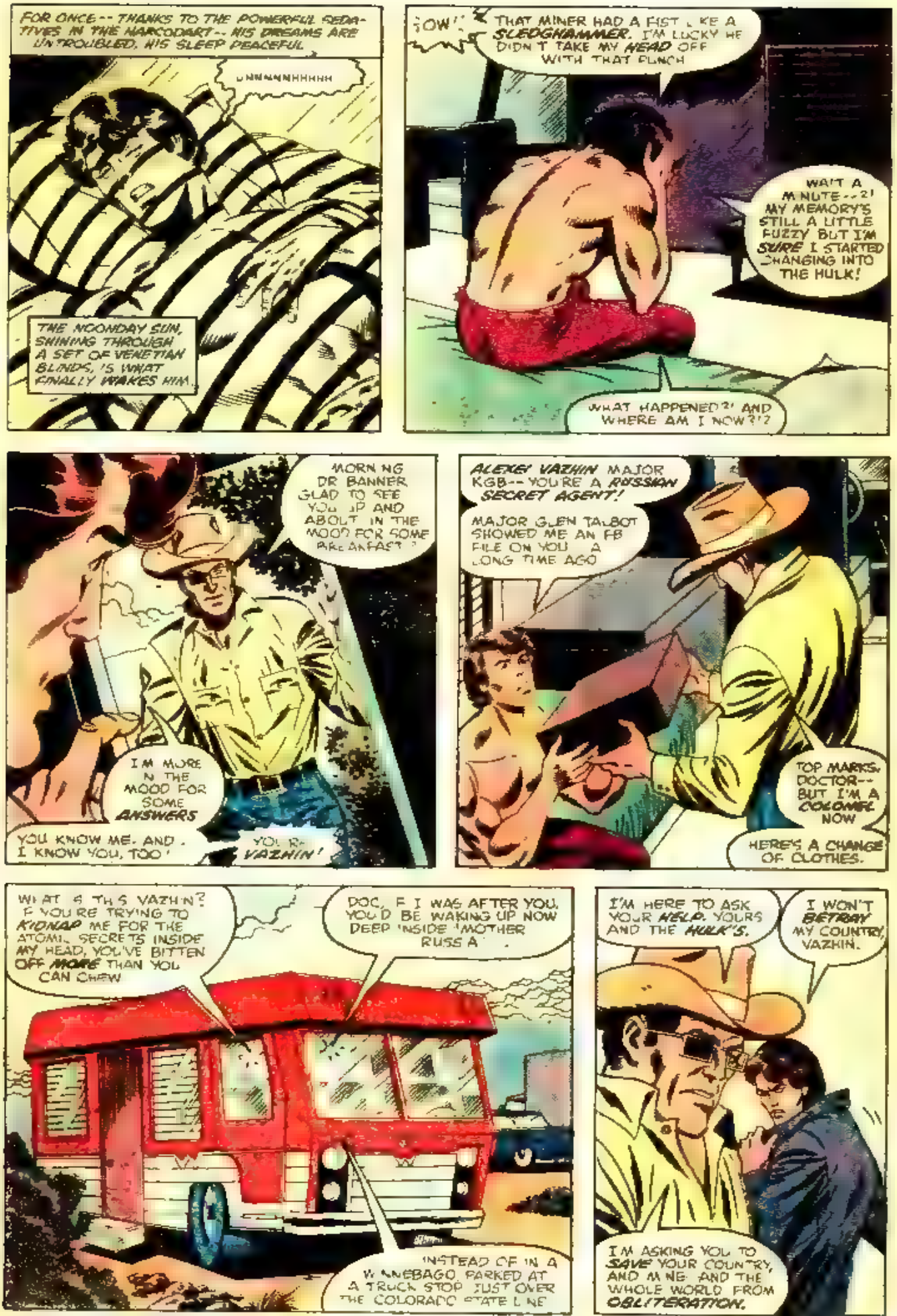
...AND ON THE STREET BEFORE HE QUITE KNOWS WHAT HIT HIM. AT THAT POINT, NATURE, WITH THE HELP OF AN OVEREXPOSURE TO GAMMA RADIATION, TAKES ITS COURSE
OH, NO! HEART RACING, ADRENALINE SURGING THROUGH MY BLOODSTREAM

I CAN'T HELP MYSELF! I'M STARTING TO CHANGE INTO THE HULK!

I'VE COME A LONG WAY TO FIND YOU, DR. BANNER
IT SEEMS I'VE ARRIVED IN THE PROVERBIAL NICK OF TIME
AS MILD-MANNERED SCIENTIST

...TRANSFORMS INTO ENRAGED EMERALD BEHEMOTH...
A TRANQUILIZING DART IS FIRED!

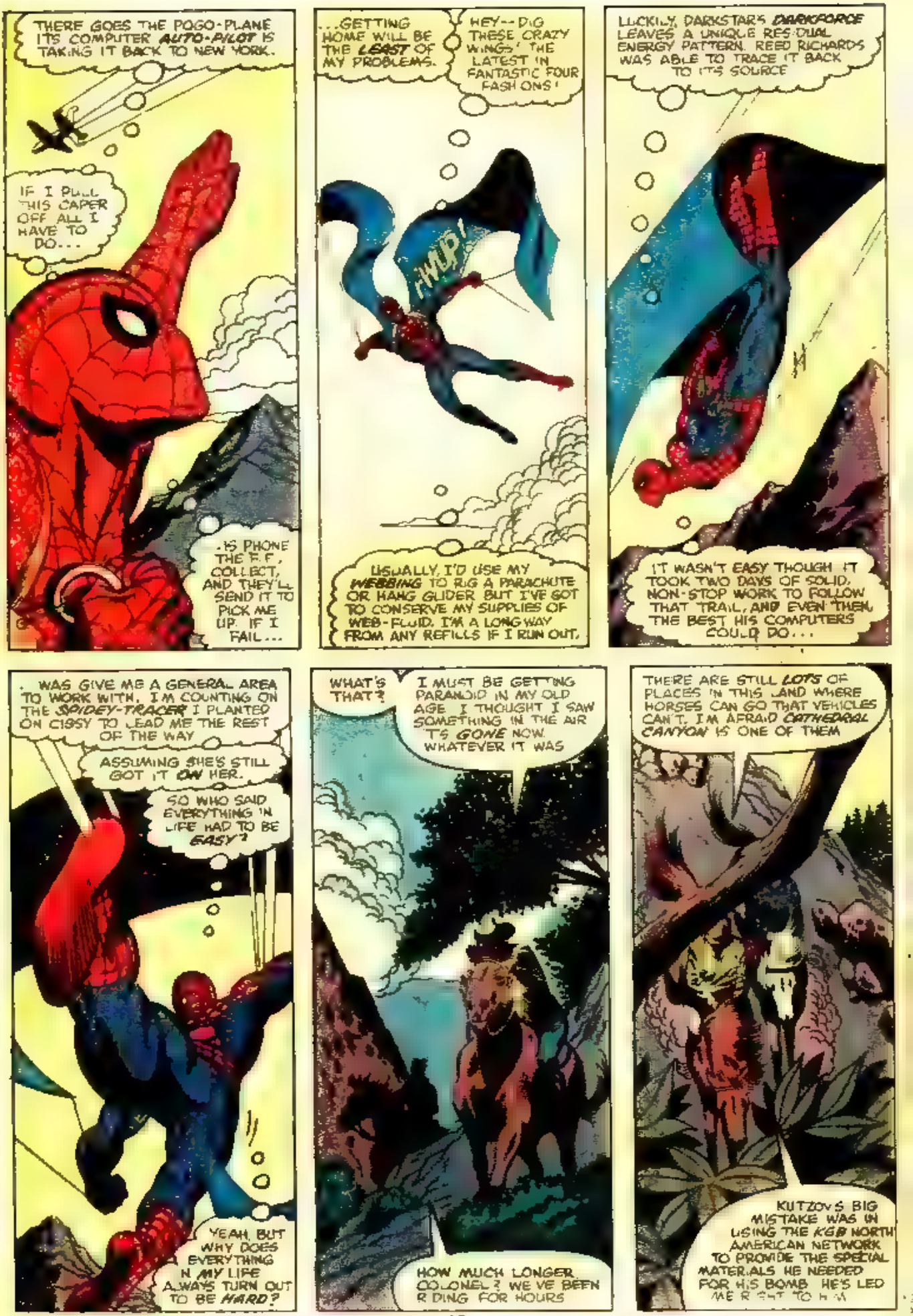
BANNER IS OUT COLD BEFORE HE HITS THE GROUND.
PLEASANT DREAMS, COMRADE DOCTOR. LET'S HOPE THAT WHEN YOU WAKE UP
THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL STILL BE ALIVE TO GREET YOU.


FOR ONCE -- THANKS TO THE POWERFUL SEDATIVES IN THE NARCODART -- HIS DREAMS ARE UNTROUBLED, HIS SLEEP PEACEFUL
THE NOONDAY SUN, SHINING THROUGH A SET OF VENETIAN BLINDS, IS WHAT FINALLY WAKES HIM.
OW!
THAT MINER HAD A FIST LIKE A SLEDGEHAMMER. I'M LUCKY HE DIDN'T TAKE MY HEAD OFF WITH THAT PUNCH
WAIT A MINUTE--! MY MEMORY'S STILL A LITTLE FUZZY BUT I'M SURE I STARTED CHANGING INTO THE HULK!
WHAT HAPPENED?! AND WHERE AM I NOW?!?
MORNING DR BANNER GLAD TO SEE YOU UP AND ABOUT IN THE MOOD FOR SOME BREAKFAST?
I'M MORE IN THE MOOD FOR SOME ANSWERS
YOU KNOW ME. AND I KNOW YOU, TOO!
YOU'RE VAZHIN!
ALEXEI VAZHIN MAJOR KGB -- YOU'RE A RUSSIAN SECRET AGENT!
MAJOR GLEN TALBOT SHOWED ME AN FBI FILE ON YOU A LONG TIME AGO
TOP MARKS, DOCTOR -- BUT I'M A COLONEL NOW
HERE'S A CHANGE OF CLOTHES.
WHAT'S THIS VAZHIN? IF YOU'RE TRYING TO KIDNAP ME FOR THE ATOMIC SECRETS INSIDE MY HEAD, YOU'VE BITTEN OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW
DOC, IF I WAS AFTER YOU, YOU'D BE WAKING UP NOW DEEP INSIDE MOTHER RUSSIA
INSTEAD OF IN A WINNEBAGO PARKED AT A TRUCK STOP JUST OVER THE COLORADO STATE LINE
I'M HERE TO ASK YOUR HELP. YOURS AND THE HULK'S.
I WON'T BETRAY MY COUNTRY, VAZHIN.
I'M ASKING YOU TO SAVE YOUR COUNTRY, AND MINE AND THE WHOLE WORLD FROM OBLITERATION.

YOUR NATION AND MINE HAVE BETWEEN THEM THE POWER TO DESTROY ALL LIFE ON EARTH MANY TIMES OVER. FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS WE'VE BEEN WORKING TO REDUCE INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS AND RIVALRIES THROUGH DETENTE
BUT-- JUST AS MANY IN YOUR GOVERNMENT DISTRUST SOVIET MOTIVES AND ACTIONS SO ARE THERE THOSE IN THE KREMLIN WHO DISTRUST YOUR GOVERNMENT
"ONE SUCH HARD LINER WAS GENERAL NIKOLAI KUTZOV-- CHIEF OF THE NINTH DIRECTORATE OF THE KGB AND A RISING YOUNG STAR IN THE SOVIET MILITARY.
BITTERLY OPPOSED THE RECENTLY SIGNED SALT* TREATY AS A SELL-OUT TO THE AMERICANS, HE RESIGNED HIS COMMISSION IN PROTEST.
*STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS -- ALLEN
BEFORE DOING THAT HOWEVER, HE STOLE THE KGB MASTER FILE ON DANIEL IRONWOOD. THAT FILE FOCUSED ON IRONWOOD'S RESEARCH INTO THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSE,
KUTZOV THEN ESTABLISHED A RENEGADE ESPIONAGE OPERATION.
HE ENLISTED THE AID OF DARKSTAR THE NEW CRIMSON DYNAMO AND [redacted] BY USING FORGED LETTERS
...TO DUPE THEM INTO BELIEVING THAT HE IS ACTING WITH THE FULL AUTHORITY OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE."
THANKS TO KUTZOV THEY BELIEVE AMERICA IS ABOUT TO LAUNCH A PRE-EMPTIVE NUCLEAR STRIKE AND THEY ARE ACTING TO SAVE THEIR MOTHERLAND FROM DESTRUCTION.
TWO DAYS AGO, THEY ABDUCTED PROFESSOR IRONWOOD AND HIS DAUGHTER.
KUTZOV INTENDS TO FORCE IRONWOOD TO BUILD AN ANTI-MATTER BOMB.
ANTI-MATTER -- IS HE MAD?! DOESN'T HE REALIZE THE KIND OF FORCES HE'S PLAYING WITH?!
I THINK NOT. TO KUTZOV THIS IS A BOMB LIKE ANY OTHER ONLY BIGGER.
WITH IT HE WILL DESTROY AMERICA UNLESS HE IS STOPPED.
I MUST STOP HIM AT ANY COST
I NEED YOUR HELP BECAUSE YOU ARE THE WORLD'S FOREMOST AUTHORITY ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
--AND BECAUSE YOU ARE THE HULK
WELL YOU'VE GOT IT COLONEL.
I ONLY PRAY WE'LL BE IN TIME

CHAPTER 4

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH!

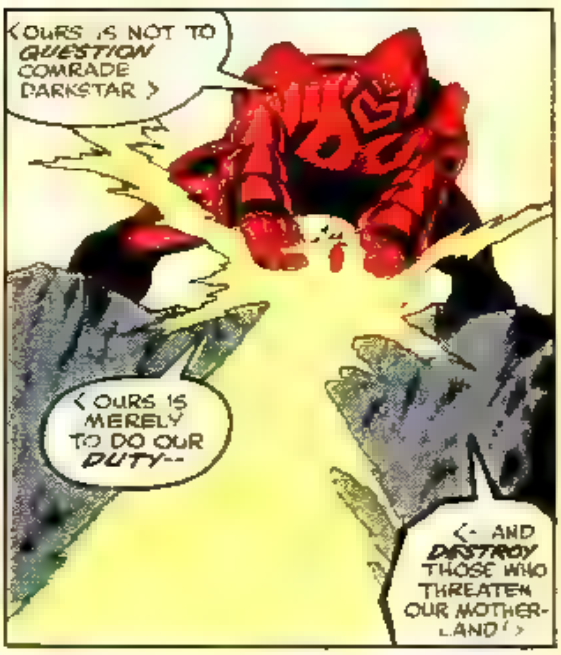

THERE GOES THE POGO-PLANE ITS COMPUTER AUTO-PILOT IS TAKING IT BACK TO NEW YORK.
IF I PULL THIS CAPER OFF ALL I HAVE TO DO...
...IS PHONE THE F.F., COLLECT, AND THEY'LL SEND IT TO PICK ME UP. IF I FAIL...
...GETTING HOME WILL BE THE LEAST OF MY PROBLEMS.
HEY--DIG THESE CRAZY WINGS! THE LATEST IN FANTASTIC FOUR FASHIONS!
WHUP!
USUALLY, I'D USE MY WEBBING TO RIG A PARACHUTE OR HANG GLIDER BUT I'VE GOT TO CONSERVE MY SUPPLIES OF WEB-FLUID. I'M A LONG WAY FROM ANY REFILLS IF I RUN OUT.
LUCKILY, DARKSTAR'S DARKFORCE LEAVES A UNIQUE RESIDUAL ENERGY PATTERN. REED RICHARDS WAS ABLE TO TRACE IT BACK TO ITS SOURCE
IT WASN'T EASY THOUGH! IT TOOK TWO DAYS OF SOLID, NON-STOP WORK TO FOLLOW THAT TRAIL, AND EVEN THEN, THE BEST HIS COMPUTERS COULD DO...
...WAS GIVE ME A GENERAL AREA TO WORK WITH. I'M COUNTING ON THE SPIDEY-TRACER I PLANTED ON CISSY TO LEAD ME THE REST OF THE WAY
ASSUMING SHE'S STILL GOT IT ON HER.
SO WHO SAID EVERYTHING IN LIFE HAD TO BE EASY?
YEAH, BUT WHY DOES EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE ALWAYS TURN OUT TO BE HARD?
WHAT'S THAT?
I MUST BE GETTING PARANOID IN MY OLD AGE. I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING IN THE AIR IT'S GONE NOW. WHATEVER IT WAS
HOW MUCH LONGER, COLONEL? WE'VE BEEN RIDING FOR HOURS
THERE ARE STILL LOTS OF PLACES IN THIS LAND WHERE HORSES CAN GO THAT VEHICLES CAN'T. I'M AFRAID CATHEDRAL CANYON IS ONE OF THEM
KUTZOV'S BIG MISTAKE WAS IN USING THE KGB NORTH AMERICAN NETWORK TO PROVIDE THE SPECIAL MATERIALS HE NEEDED FOR HIS BOMB. HE'S LED ME RIGHT TO HIM.

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

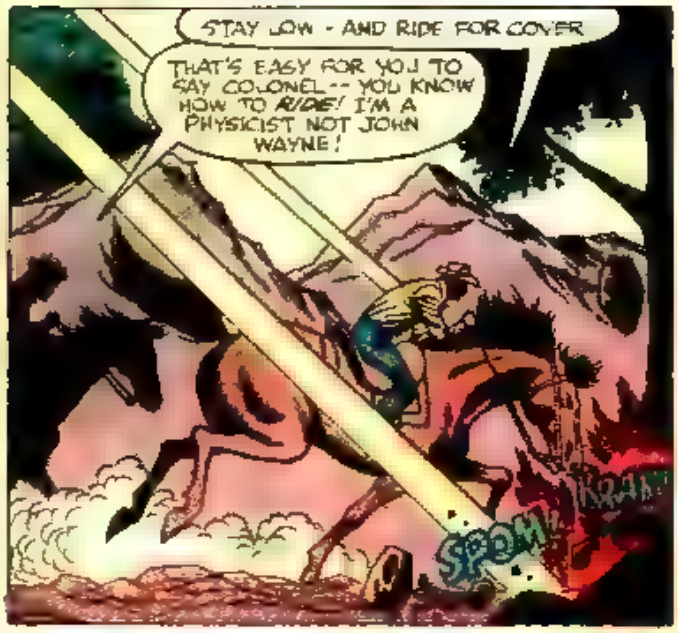
A FEW MINUTES LATER, AT THE ENTRANCE TO CATHEDRAL CANYON...
< THERE THEY ARE >
< IT SEEMS STRANGE FOR THE AMERICANS TO SEND ONLY TWO MEN AFTER US CONSIDERING THE STAKES INVOLVED I WAS EXPECTING THEIR ENTIRE ARMED FORCES >
< AND EVERY SUPER-HERO THEY COULD LAY THEIR HANDS ON >
< THEY'RE HARDLY ACTING LIKE A COUNTRY PREPARING TO START A NUCLEAR WAR >
< ALL IT TAKES IS AN ORDER TO THEIR MISSILE FORCES, DARKSTAR >
< NOT A GENERAL MOBILIZATION >

< PERHAPS, VANGUARD BUT I STILL CANNOT SHAKE MY DOUBTS ABOUT OUR MISSION >
< PERHAPS LAYNIA, WORKING WITH THOSE AMERICAN SUPERHEROS HAS CORRUPTED YOUR JUDGEMENT >
< DON'T BE ABSURD >

< I WISH I KNEW MORE ABOUT THIS "MIRACLE WEAPON" GENERAL KUTZOV IS BUILDING HE BOASTS IT WILL ELIMINATE AMERICA AS A THREAT TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR ALL TIME.>
< HOW CAN THAT BE ?? >

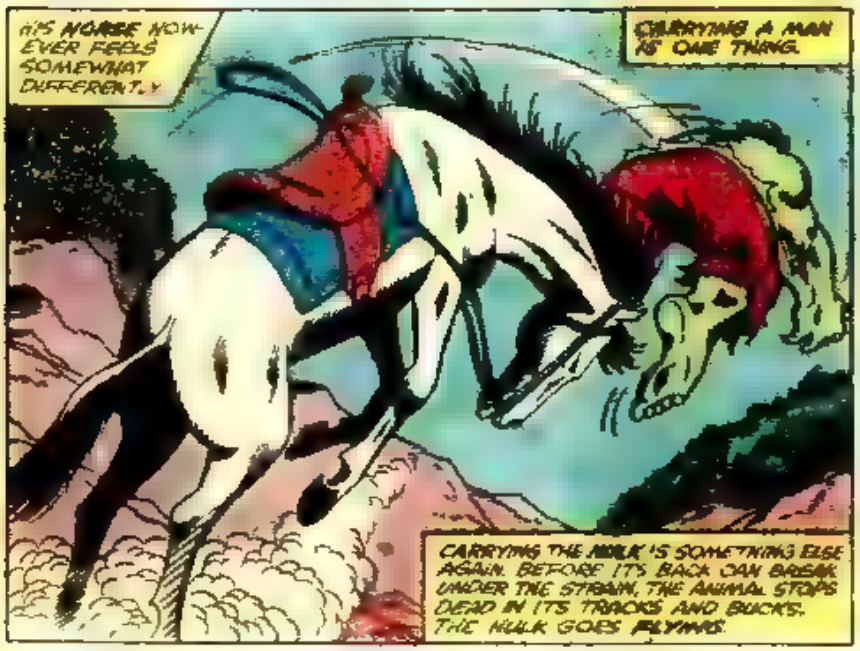

< OURS IS NOT TO QUESTION COMRADE DARKSTAR >
< OURS IS MERELY TO DO OUR DUTY--
<-- AND DESTROY THOSE WHO THREATEN OUR MOTHER-LAND! >

WHAT THE ?! AMBUSH!
THAT ENERGY BLAST-- IT MUST BE THE CRIMSON DYNAMO! WE'RE IN LUCK, BANNER. WE HAVE FOUND THOSE WHO WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.
THIS IS "LUCK?"
KA-LAM!


STAY LOW - AND RIDE FOR COVER.
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY COLONEL -- YOU KNOW HOW TO RIDE! I'M A PHYSICIST NOT JOHN WAYNE!
SPOOM!

THOSE BOLTS ARE COMING AWFULLY CLOSE. HEMMING US IN. WE CAN'T DODGE THEM MUCH LONGER
THIS ONCE..

...BANNER ALMOST WELCOMES HIS QUICKENED HEARTBEAT..
R-RIP!!
...AND THE DRAMATIC CHANGE IT HERALDS.


HIS MORPH HOWEVER FEELS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT.
CARRYING A MAN IS ONE THING.
CARRYING THE HULK IS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN. BEFORE IT'S BACK CAN BREAK UNDER THE STRAIN, THE ANIMAL STOPS DEAD IN ITS TRACKS AND BUCKS. THE HULK GOES FLYING.

WHEN HE PICKS HIMSELF UP OUT OF THE DIRT, HE IS NOT AMUSED.
DUMB HORSE THREW HULK FOR NO REASON!

HORSE HAS MADE HULK MAD-- HUH?!?
HULK NOW UNDERSTANDS
ZIZZ!
HORSE WASN'T TRYING TO HURT HULK

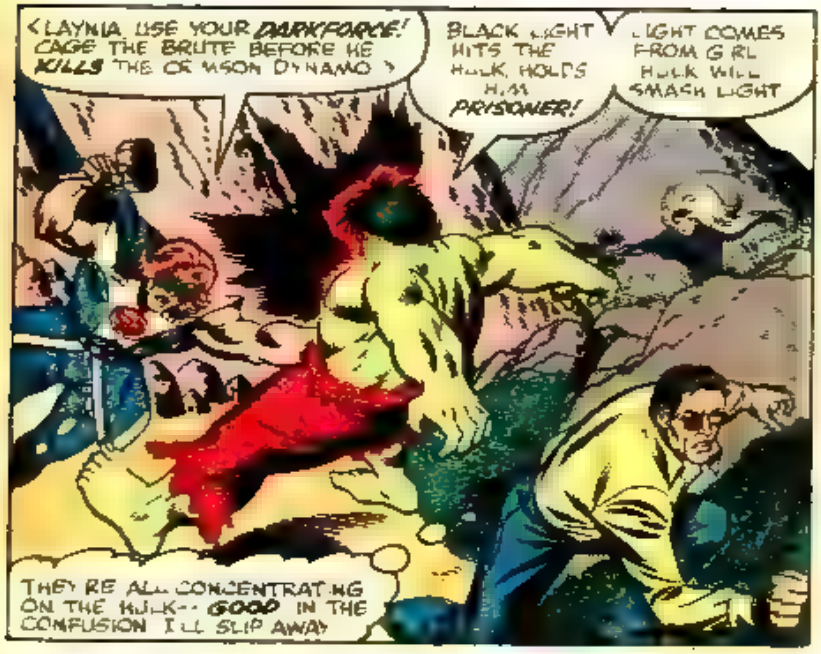
HORSE WAS FRIGHTENED BY PUNY HUMANS
HUMANS WERE SHOOTING AT HULK-- MAYBE TRYING TO KILL HULK.

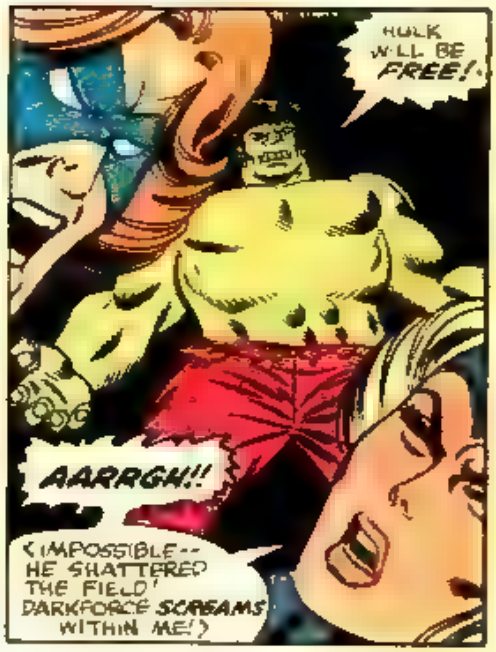
HULK WILL TEACH THEM TO LEAVE THE HULK ALONE.
HULK WILL MAKE THEM PAY!

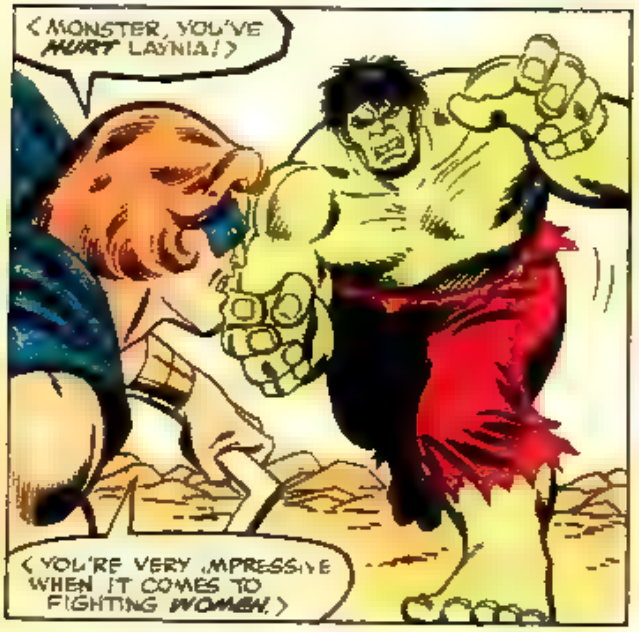
(BY LEN N'S)
SHRAAK!
THE HULK'S ATTACK CATCHES THE THREE RUSSIANS BY SURPRISE

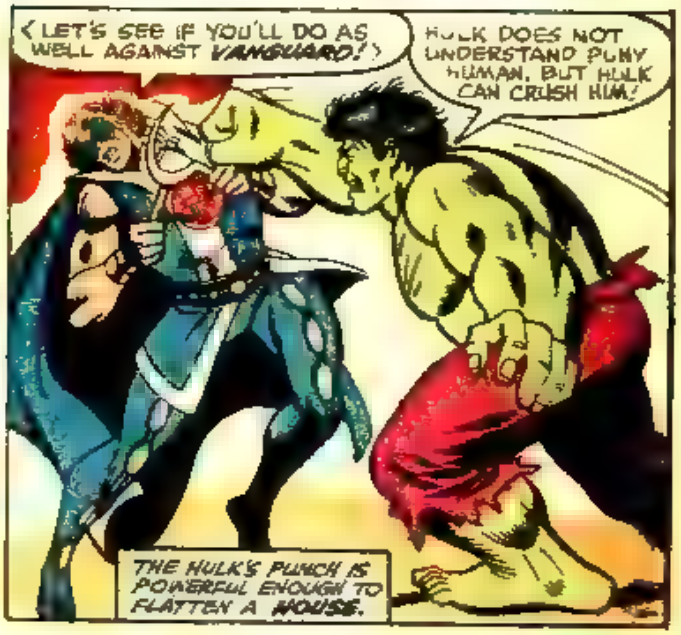
THEY ALL LAND HARD. THE CRIMSON DYNAMO UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM, LANDS AT THE HULK'S FEET.
HULK DOES NOT KNOW WHO YOU ARE TIN MAN
THUD!

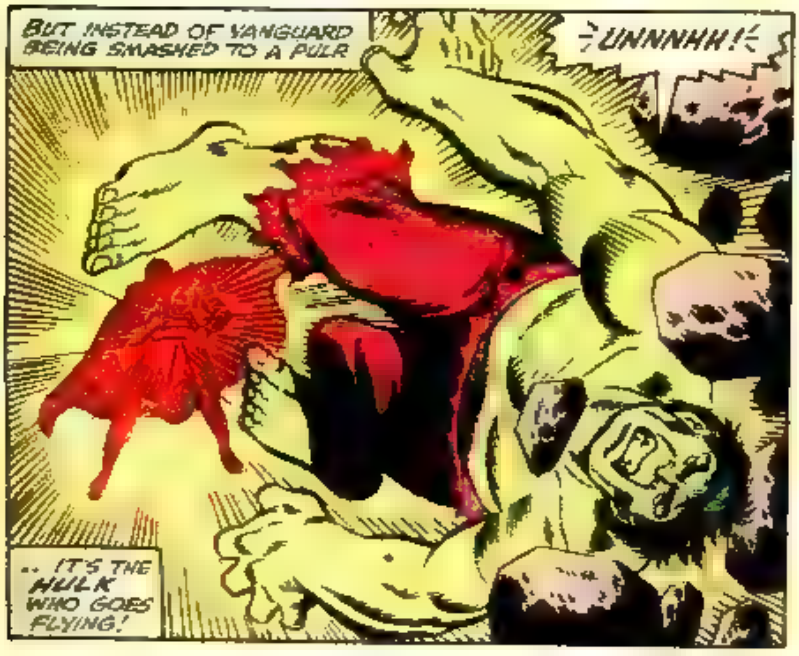
...AND HULK DOES NOT CARE!
BUT HULK WILL MAKE SURE TIN-MAN NEVER BOTHERS HULK AGAIN!


< LAYNIA USE YOUR DARKFORCE! CAGE THE BRUTE BEFORE HE KILLS THE CRIMSON DYNAMO >
BLACK LIGHT HITS THE HULK, HOLDS HIM PRISONER!
LIGHT COMES FROM GIRL HULK WILL SMASH LIGHT
THEY'RE ALL CONCENTRATING ON THE HULK-- GOOD IN THE CONFUSION I'LL SLIP AWAY


HULK WILL BE FREE!
AARRGH!!
< IMPOSSIBLE-- HE SHATTERED THE FIELD! DARKFORCE SCREAMS WITHIN ME! >


< MONSTER, YOU'VE HURT LAYNIA! >
< YOU'RE VERY IMPRESSIVE WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING WOMEN. >


< LET'S SEE IF YOU'LL DO AS WELL AGAINST VANGUARD! >
HULK DOES NOT UNDERSTAND PUNY HUMAN, BUT HULK CAN CRUSH HIM!
THE HULK'S PUNCH IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO FLATTEN A HOUSE.


BUT INSTEAD OF VANGUARD BEING SMASHED TO A PULP
=UNNNHH!=
.. IT'S THE HULK WHO GOES FLYING!

< NEVER HAVE I BEEN MORE GRATEFUL FOR THE POWER OF MY HAMMER AND SICKLE TO TURN THE FULL FORCE OF AN OPPONENT'S ATTACK BACK AGAINST HIM. IT WAS AS IF THE HULK HAD STRUCK HIMSELF. >
< I THINK WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF HIM >

THEN AGAIN .
WHOM!
< T CAN T BE!>
<THE HULK STILL LIVES!>
HULK DID NOT SEE PUNY HUMAN PUNCH HIM. BUT DID PUNY HUMAN THINK ONE PUNCH COULD FINISH HULK?!
HUMAN MUST BE REAL DUMB.
BLUE-SHIRT HAD H S CHANCE NOW IT S HULK'S TURN!
ONCE MORE, THE HULK S ASSAULT IS MET BY THE ENERGY COUNTER FORCE SET UP BY VANGUARD'S CROSSED HAMMER-AND-SICKLE.
KRUMP!
AND HISTORY, AS THE SAYING GOES, REPEATS ITSELF.
FUNNY-SHAPED STICKS STOP HULK FROM PUNCHING BLUE-SHIRT.
BUT BLUE-SHIRT WILL SEE THAT HULK CAN DO MORE THAN PUNCH.
MASSIVE SHOCKWAVES TRIPHAMMER ACROSS THE CANYON AS THE HULK'S FISTS SLAM INTO THE GROUND. .
...BUT, MOVING WITH SPEED BORN OF STARK TERROR...
... VANGUARD MANAGES TO SCRAMBLE TO HIS FEET JUST IN TIME TO BLOCK THE HULK'S FOLLOW-UP BLOW. AGAIN THE RUSSIAN'S HAMMER-AND-SICKLE SAVE HIM.

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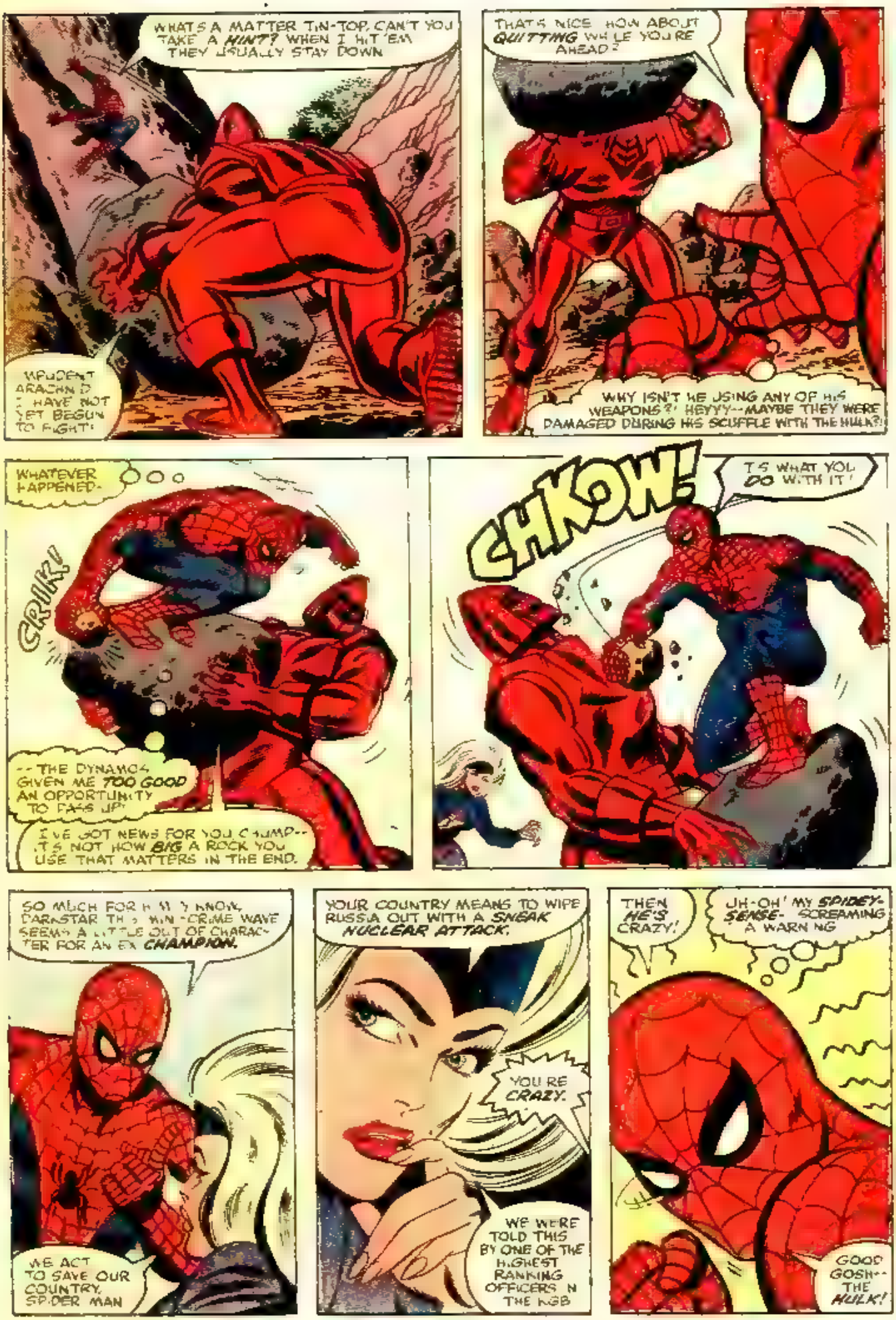
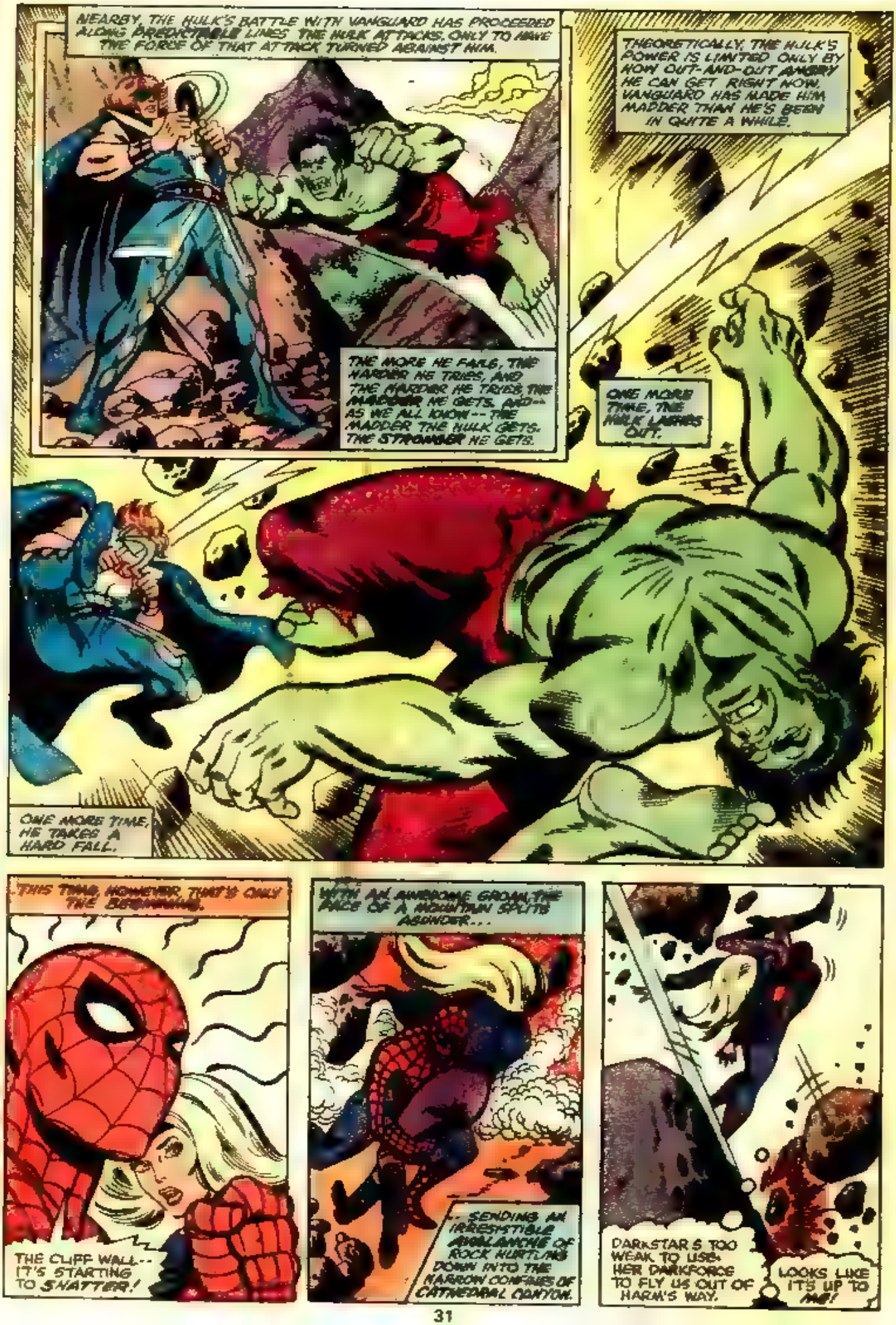
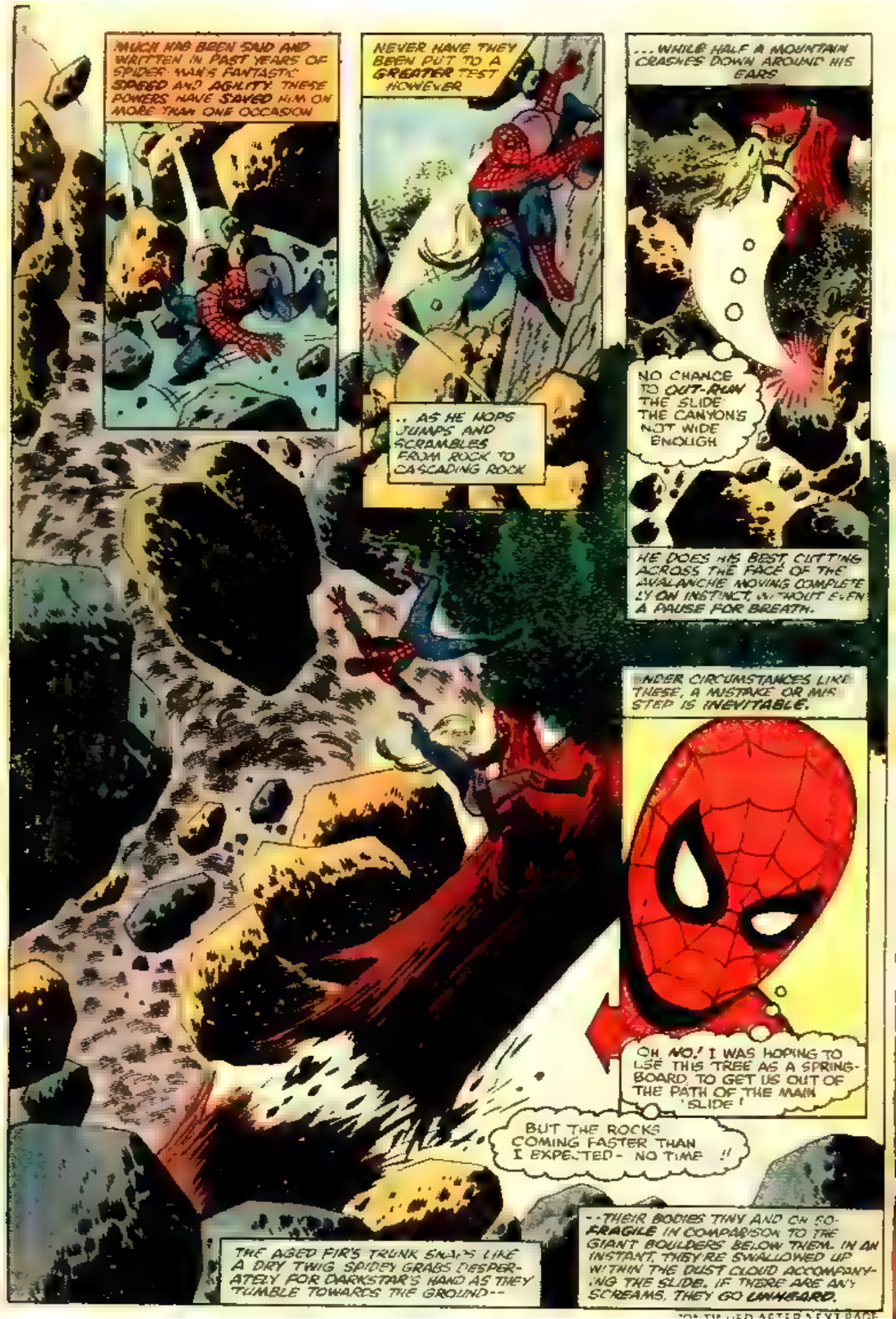

WHAT'S A MATTER TIN-TOP, CAN'T YOU TAKE A HINT? WHEN I HIT 'EM THEY USUALLY STAY DOWN
IMPUDENT ARACHNID! I HAVE NOT YET BEGUN TO FIGHT!
THAT'S NICE. HOW ABOUT QUITTING WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD?
WHY ISN'T HE USING ANY OF HIS WEAPONS?! HEYYY--MAYBE THEY WERE DAMAGED DURING HIS SCUFFLE WITH THE HULK?!
WHATEVER HAPPENED--
CRIK!
--THE DYNAMO GIVEN ME TOO GOOD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PASS UP!
I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU, CHUMP-- IT'S NOT HOW BIG A ROCK YOU USE THAT MATTERS IN THE END.
CHKOW!
IT'S WHAT YOU DO WITH IT!
SO MUCH FOR WHAT I KNOW. DARKSTAR THE MINI-CRIME WAVE SEEMS A LITTLE OUT OF CHARACTER FOR AN EX-CHAMPION.
WE ACT TO SAVE OUR COUNTRY, SPIDER-MAN
YOUR COUNTRY MEANS TO WIPE RUSSIA OUT WITH A SNEAK NUCLEAR ATTACK.
YOU'RE CRAZY.
WE WERE TOLD THIS BY ONE OF THE HIGHEST RANKING OFFICERS IN THE KGB
THEN HE'S CRAZY!
UH-OH! MY SPIDEY-SENSE- SCREAMING A WARNING
GOOD GOSH-- THE HULK!


NEARBY, THE HULK'S BATTLE WITH VANGUARD HAS PROCEEDED ALONG PREDICTABLE LINES. THE HULK ATTACKS, ONLY TO HAVE THE FORCE OF THAT ATTACK TURNED AGAINST HIM.
THE MORE HE FAILS, THE HARDER HE TRIES, AND THE HARDER HE TRIES, THE MADDER HE GETS. AND--AS WE ALL KNOW--THE MADDER THE HULK GETS, THE STRONGER HE GETS.
THEORETICALLY, THE HULK'S POWER IS LIMITED ONLY BY HOW OUT-AND-OUT ANGRY HE CAN GET RIGHT NOW. VANGUARD HAS MADE HIM MADDER THAN HE'S BEEN IN QUITE A WHILE.
ONE MORE TIME, THE HULK LASHES OUT.
ONE MORE TIME, HE TAKES A HARD FALL.
THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING.
THE CLIFF WALL--IT'S STARTING TO SHATTER!
WITH AN AWESOME GROAN, THE FACE OF A MOUNTAIN SPLITS ASUNDER...
...SENDING AN IRRESISTIBLE AVALANCHE OF ROCK HURTLING DOWN INTO THE NARROW CONFINES OF CATHEDRAL CANYON.
DARKSTAR'S TOO WEAK TO USE HER DARKFORCE TO FLY US OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO ME!



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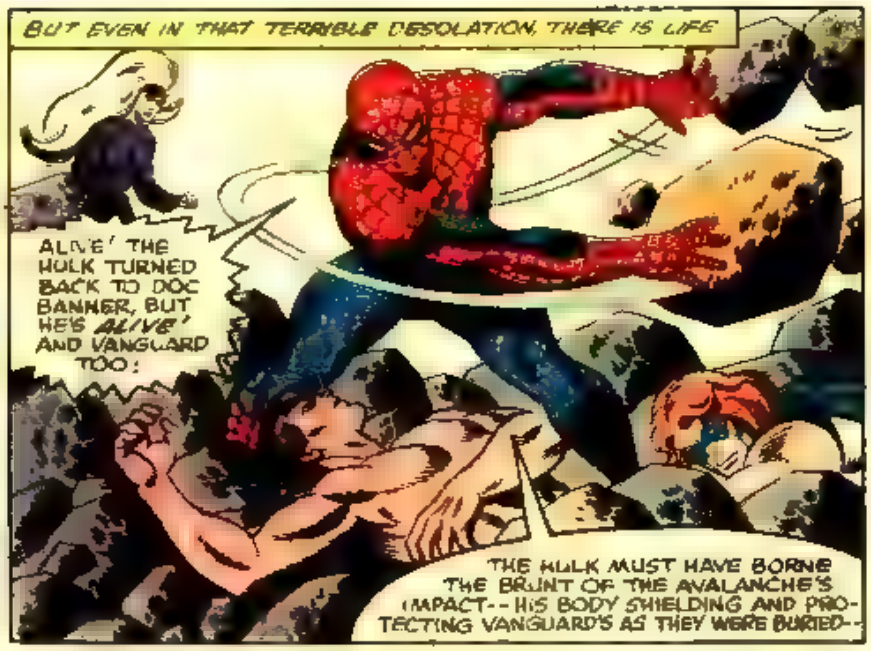
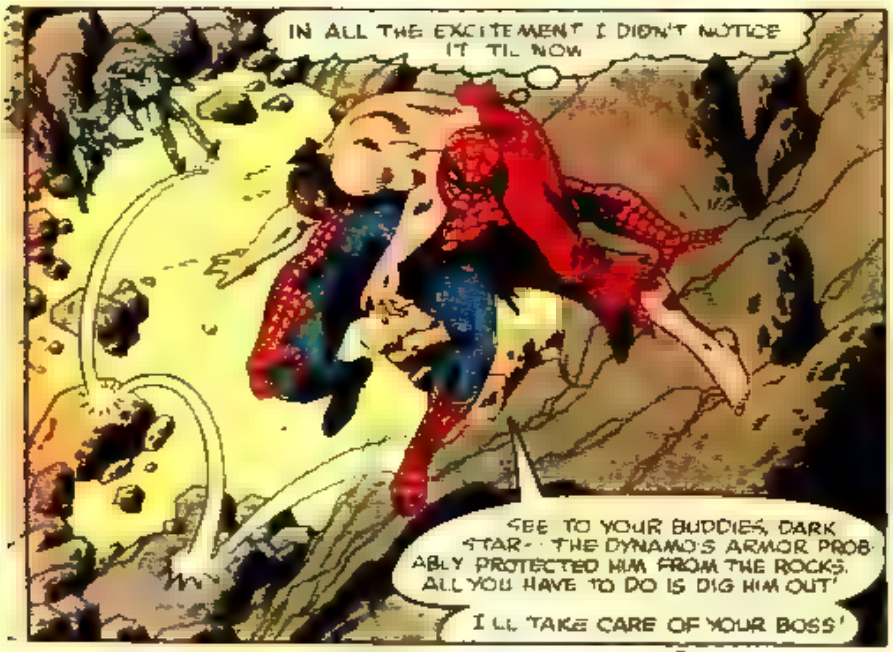
WHAT'S MOST SURPRISING IS HOW QUICKLY EVERYTHING IS OVER. WITHIN MINUTES, ALL IS DEATHLY STILL
...IN A CATHEDRAL CANYON NOW CHOKED WITH RUBBLE


BUT EVEN IN THAT TERRIBLE DESOLATION, THERE IS LIFE
ALIVE! THE HULK TURNED BACK TO DOC BANNER, BUT HE'S ALIVE! AND VANGUARD TOO!
THE HULK MUST HAVE BORNE THE BRUNT OF THE AVALANCHE'S IMPACT--HIS BODY SHIELDING AND PROTECTING VANGUARD'S AS THEY WERE BURIED--

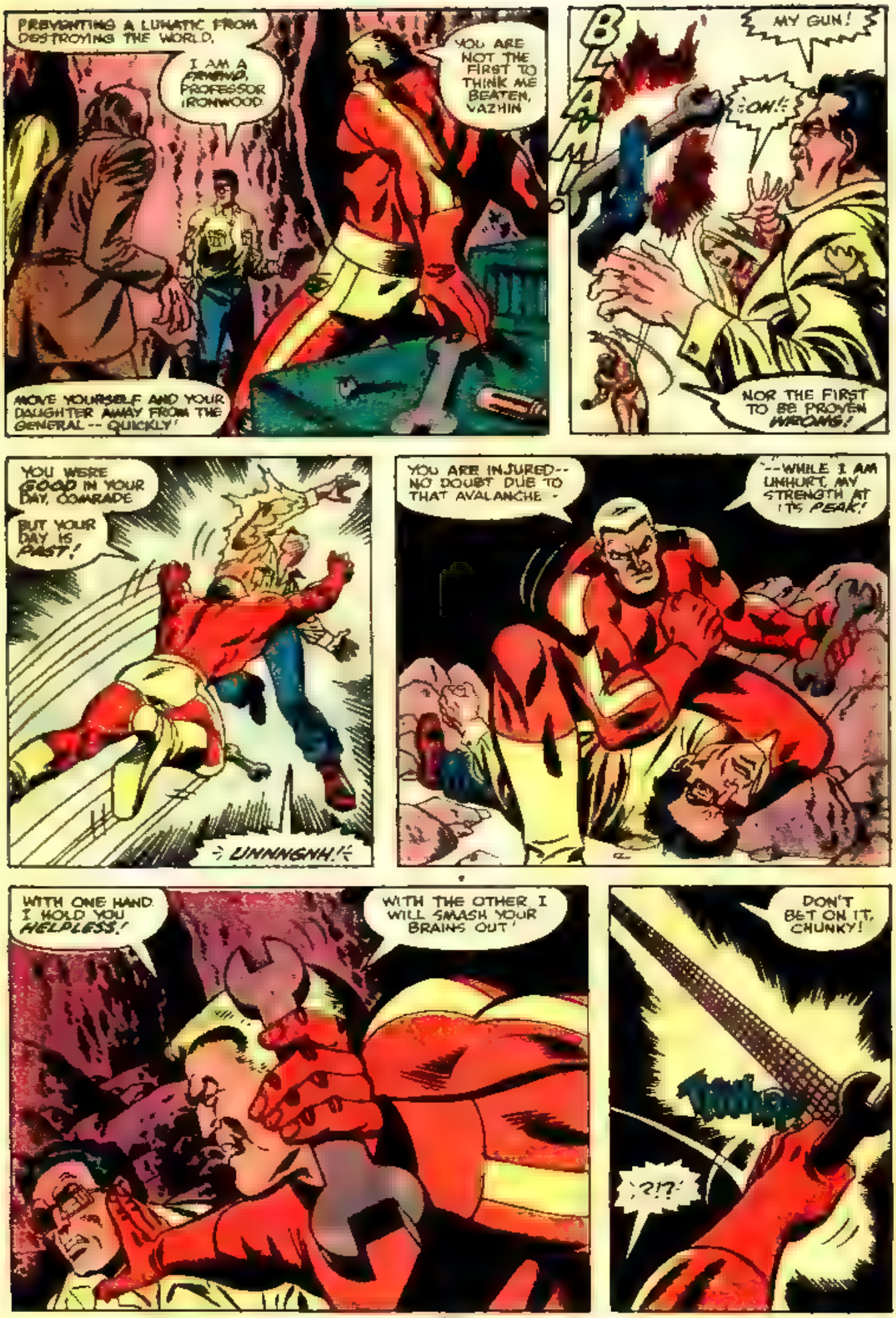
--BEFORE FINALLY TRANSFORMING BACK INTO BRUCE BANNER
HEY! HE'S COMING 'ROUND! REST EASY, DOC YOU'RE AMONG FRIENDS.
MMMOOO MUST GO ON-- STOP KUTZOV

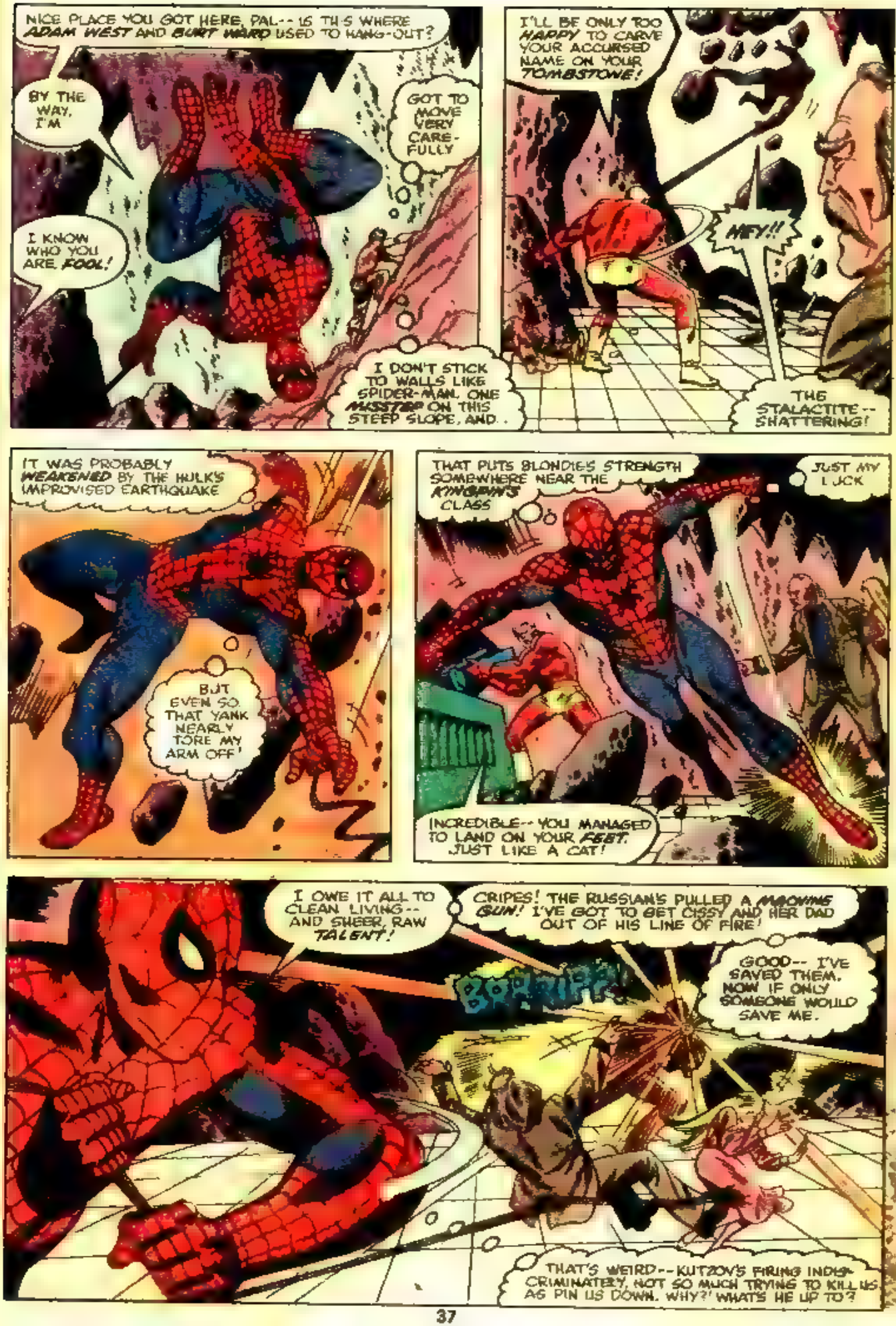
YOU KNOW OF GENERAL KUTZOV?!
HE'S..RUNNING RENEGADE ESPIONAGE OPERATION PLANS TO USE IRONWOOD FORMULA--CREATE ANTI-MATTER BOMB DESTROY UNITED STATES. WON'T BELIEVE.. BACKLASH WILL PROBABLY DESTROY... WHOLE WORLD..
GOT TO STOP HIMMMMM--
MY SPIDEY-TRACER-- I'M PICKING IT UP!


IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT I DIDN'T NOTICE IT 'TIL NOW
SEE TO YOUR BUDDIES, DARK STAR-- THE DYNAMO'S ARMOR PROBABLY PROTECTED HIM FROM THE ROCKS. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS DIG HIM OUT!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR BOSS!

IF YOU KNOW ANY GOOD PRAYERS LADY, LET 'EM RIP!
I CAN USE ALL THE HELP I CAN GET!
I WILL PRAY FOR YOU, MY FRIEND, AND FOR US ALL

CHAPTER 5
A MAN'S LIFE -- OR A WORLD?!
DEEP WITHIN THE ESCARPMENT THAT FORMS ONE WALL OF CATHEDRAL CANYON LIES NIKOLAI KUTZOV'S SECRET BASE - A FAIR SIZED NATURAL CAVERN HE HAD DISCOVERED YEARS BEFORE ON A WORKING VACATION.
ORIGINALLY THE KGB HAD PLANNED TO USE IT TO EAVESDROP ON THE NORAD COMMAND POST INSIDE CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN BARELY A HUNDRED MILES DUE SOUTH. BUT DÉTENTE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF "SPY SATELLITES" BY US BUDGET CUTS -- HAD KILLED THE PROJECT IN ITS INFANCY.
BEFORE LONG THE CAVE HAD BEEN FORGOTTEN - BY EVERY ONE EXCEPT KUTZOV. NOW, THE SHOCKWAVE FROM THE HULK'S FINAL ATTACK HAS TOPPLED A GOOD CHUNK OF THE MOUNTAIN AROUND THEM
...BUT THE CAVE ITSELF REMAINS RELATIVELY UNTOUCHED THE GLEAMING SPHERES OF DANIEL IRONWOOD'S ANTI-MATTER BOMB ARE PRIMED AND READY FOR ACTIVATION
SUDDENLY -
YOU CAN STOP TIDYING UP THE MESS NIKOLAI GREGOR EVITCH
WHO--? DAD - LOOK!
YOU?! IT CAN'T BE!
IF YOU SAY SO, COMRADE GENERAL CONSIDER ME A MIRAGE
BUT MAKE EVEN THE SLIGHTEST MOVE -
--AND THIS "MIRAGE" WILL SHOOT YOU DEAD.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING COLONEL VAZHIN?!


PREVENTING A LUNATIC FROM DESTROYING THE WORLD.
I AM A FRIEND, PROFESSOR IRONWOOD.
YOU ARE NOT THE FIRST TO THINK ME BEATEN, VAZHIN
MOVE YOURSELF AND YOUR DAUGHTER AWAY FROM THE GENERAL -- QUICKLY!
BLAM!
MY GUN!
:OH!:
NOR THE FIRST TO BE PROVEN WRONG!
YOU WERE GOOD IN YOUR DAY, COMRADE
BUT YOUR DAY IS PAST!
:UNNNGNH!:
YOU ARE INJURED-- NO DOUBT DUE TO THAT AVALANCHE -
"--WHILE I AM UNHURT, MY STRENGTH AT ITS PEAK!
WITH ONE HAND I HOLD YOU HELPLESS!
WITH THE OTHER I WILL SMASH YOUR BRAINS OUT!
DON'T BET ON IT, CHUNKY!
:?!?:


NICE PLACE YOU GOT HERE, PAL-- IS THIS WHERE ADAM WEST AND BURT WARD USED TO HANG-OUT?
BY THE WAY, I'M
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, FOOL!
GOT TO MOVE VERY CARE-FULLY
I DON'T STICK TO WALLS LIKE SPIDER-MAN. ONE MISSTEP ON THIS STEEP SLOPE, AND..
I'LL BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO CARVE YOUR ACCURSED NAME ON YOUR TOMBSTONE!
HEY!!
THE STALACTITE-- SHATTERING!
IT WAS PROBABLY WEAKENED BY THE HULK'S IMPROVISED EARTHQUAKE
BUT EVEN SO, THAT YANK NEARLY TORE MY ARM OFF!
THAT PUTS BLONDIE'S STRENGTH SOMEWHERE NEAR THE KINGPIN'S CLASS
JUST MY LUCK
INCREDIBLE-- YOU MANAGED TO LAND ON YOUR FEET, JUST LIKE A CAT!
I OWE IT ALL TO CLEAN LIVING-- AND SHEER, RAW TALENT!
CRIPES! THE RUSSIAN'S PULLED A MACHINE GUN! I'VE GOT TO GET CISSY AND HER DAD OUT OF HIS LINE OF FIRE!
GOOD-- I'VE SAVED THEM. NOW IF ONLY SOMEONE WOULD SAVE ME.
BOOM
THAT'S WEIRD-- KUTZOV'S FIRING INDISCRIMINATELY, NOT SO MUCH TRYING TO KILL US AS PIN US DOWN. WHY?! WHAT'S HE UP TO?

WHATEVER IT IS I'D BETTER STOP HIM BEFORE HE GETS THERE
EASIER SAID THAN DONE HE KNOWS THIS COMPLEX, I DON'T HE'S A LOT FASTER THAN HE LOOKS, TOO
AND EVERY TIME I GET CLOSE TO A DECENT WEB-SHOT AT HIM HE CUTS LOOSE WITH THAT BLASTED TOMMY GUN
KUTZOV-- COMING THIS WAY!
HE DOESN'T SEE ME HE'S CONCENTRATING ON SPIDER-MAN!
I'VE GOT A PERFECT CHANCE TO BRING HIM DOWN!
BANNER MAKES A VALIANT EFFORT-- HURLING HIS SLIM FORM INTO THE RUSSIAN'S PATH HE MANAGES TO SLOW KUTZOV DOWN
GOT'CHA!
TOO LATE, AMERICAN!
SLAM!
HE HIT A BUTTON ON THAT CONTROL PANEL WHAT DID HE DO?!?
POW!
UN-PLEASANT DREAMS, GENERAL.
DR BANNER THE RUSSIAN ACTIVATED SOMETHING ON HIS MASTER CONSOLE! WHAT--?!
IT WAS THE BOMB, SPIDEY! KUTZOV TRIGGERED THE ANTI-MATTER BOMB!
NO POWER ON EARTH CAN ARREST THE PROCESS NOW. HUMANITY IS DOOMED AND IT'S MY FAULT--
- ALL MY FAULT!!

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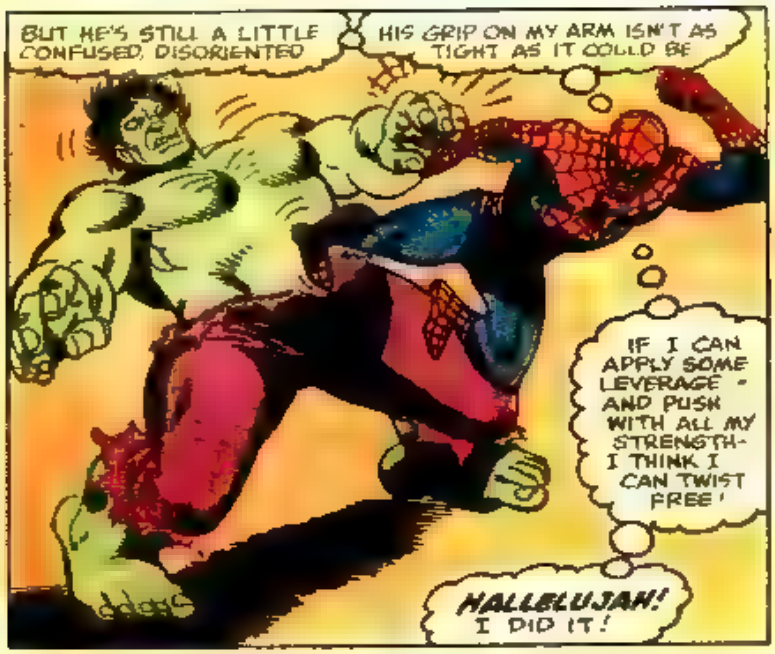
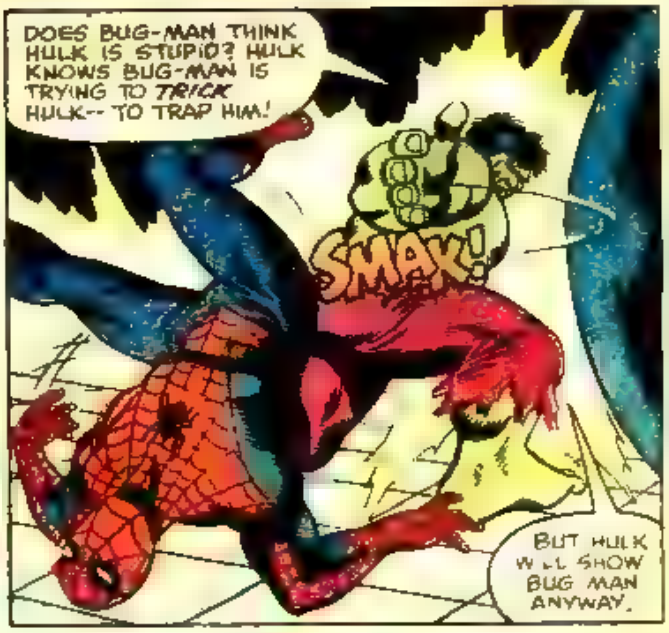
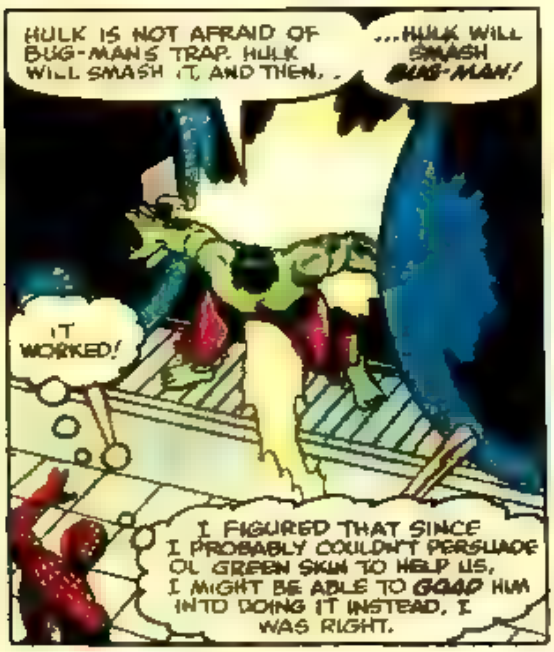
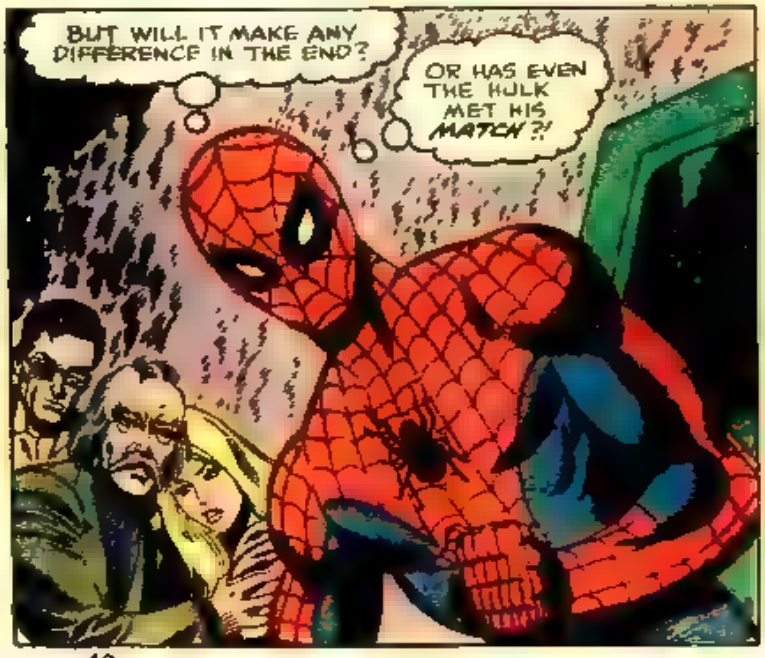

BUT HE'S STILL A LITTLE CONFUSED, DISORIENTED
HIS GRIP ON MY ARM ISN'T AS TIGHT AS IT COULD BE
IF I CAN APPLY SOME LEVERAGE - AND PUSH WITH ALL MY STRENGTH- I THINK I CAN TWIST FREE!
HALLELUJAH! I DID IT!

NOW TO GET HIM BETWEEN THESE SPHERES.
HEY, HULKIE, IF YOU'RE THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS, LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS SAYING--

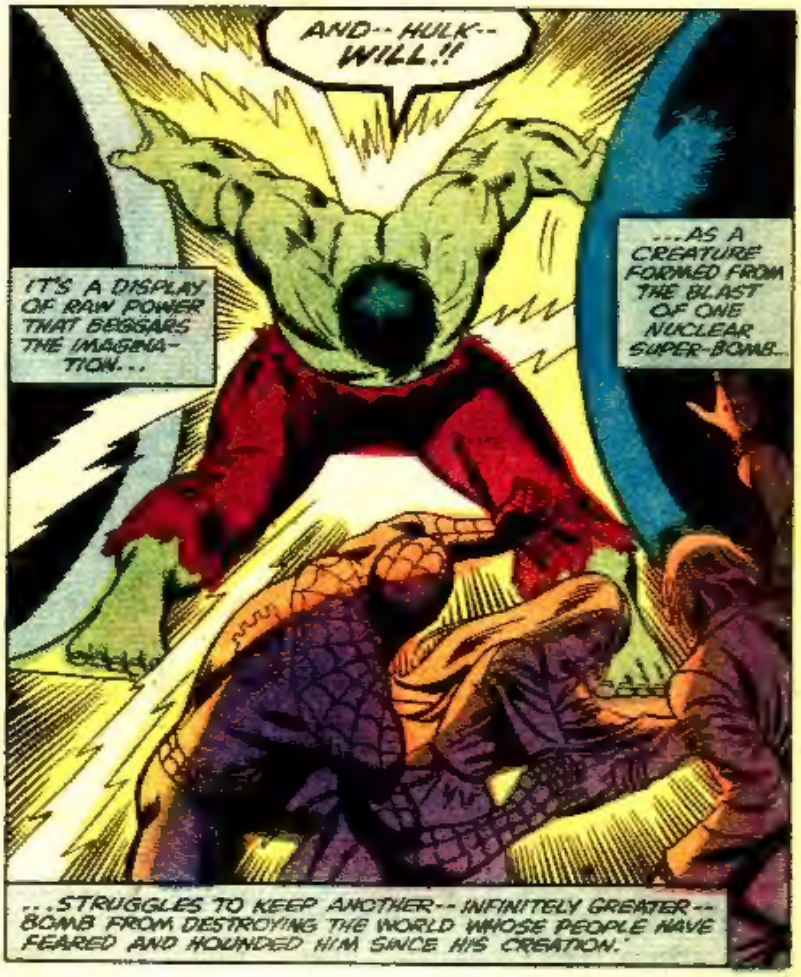
-HOW ABOUT PROVING IT!
HULK WILL PROVE IT--BY SMASHING BUG-MAN!
BIG DEAL! IF YOU'RE SO HOT, SHOW US BY DOING SOMETHING I CAN'T DO-
-LIKE SHOVING THESE TWO BALLS APART!


DOES BUG-MAN THINK HULK IS STUPID? HULK KNOWS BUG-MAN IS TRYING TO TRICK HULK-- TO TRAP HIM!
SMAK!
BUT HULK WILL SHOW BUG MAN ANYWAY.


HULK IS NOT AFRAID OF BUG-MAN'S TRAP. HULK WILL SMASH IT AND THEN...
...HULK WILL SMASH BUG-MAN!
IT WORKED!
I FIGURED THAT SINCE I PROBABLY COULDN'T PERSUADE OL' GREEN SKIN TO HELP US, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GOAD HIM INTO DOING IT INSTEAD. I WAS RIGHT.


BUT WILL IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IN THE END?
OR HAS EVEN THE HULK MET HIS MATCH?!

IT'S NOT WORKING! THE SPHERES ARE STILL CONVERGING!
THE HULK HAS FAILED!
NO!
HULK SAID HE WOULD PUSH SHINY BALLS APART.


AND--HULK--WILL!!
IT'S A DISPLAY OF RAW POWER THAT BEGGARS THE IMAGINATION...
...AS A CREATURE FORMED FROM THE BLAST OF ONE NUCLEAR SUPER-BOMB...
...STRUGGLES TO KEEP ANOTHER--INFINITELY GREATER--BOMB FROM DESTROYING THE WORLD WHOSE PEOPLE HAVE FEARED AND HOUNDED HIM SINCE HIS CREATION."

IT'S...INCREDIBLE--HE'S ACTUALLY MOVING THEM BACK. BUT ONLY A FEW INCHES. NOW HE'S HOLDING HIS OWN, BUT AS SOON AS HE GETS TIRED--EVEN A LITTLE--WE'VE HAD IT.
UNLESS--OF COURSE! IF WE CAN'T KEEP THE ANTI-MATTER SPHERES FROM COMING TOGETHER--

--SUPPOSE WE MAKE SURE THEY DETONATE WHERE EVEN THIS MASSIVE AN EXPLOSION CAN'T HARM THE EARTH--IN OUTER SPACE!
IT'S A REAL LONGSHOT, BUT AT THIS POINT, WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO LOSE?
HULK! STOP PUSHING THE SHINY BALLS!
HUH?!

BUG-MAN FINALLY BELIEVES HULK IS THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS?
NO!
NOT YET. NOT TILL YOU HIT ONE OF THOSE BALLS AS HARD AS YOU CAN.
HIT IT SO HIGH UP--IT'LL NEVER COME DOWN!
BTHOW
HUNH!! BUG-MAN THINKS HULK CAN'T DO THIS? HULK WILL SHOW HIM...
THE HULK'S BLOW BREAKS THE INERTIAL FORCE OF THE GLOBE --SENDING IT HURTLING FAR FASTER AND HARDER THAN EVEN HIS GREAT STRENGTH ALONE COULD HAVE.
THAT SPHERE SHOT OUT OF HERE LIKE A ROCKET!
HUH--?!
IF I'M RIGHT, I'VE GOT TO GET THE HULK OUT OF THE WAY OF ITS TWIN!
CRIPES-- HE'S AS MASSIVE AS HE IS BIG! I'VE HURT MYSELF LESS RUNNING INTO BRICK WALLS. BUT AT LEAST I MOVED HIM--
--AND JUST IN TIME, TOO. THERE GOES THE SECOND SPHERE, HOT ON THE TAIL OF THE FIRST.
"CROSS YOUR FINGERS, PEOPLE, AND PRAY THOSE THINGS ARE A LONG WAY OUT IN SPACE BEFORE THEY FINALLY TOUCH EACH OTHER!"
IN SECONDS, THE ANTI-MATTER GLOBES ARE OUTSIDE THE ATMOSPHERE. AS THOSE SECONDS BECOME MINUTES, AND THE MINUTES STRETCH BY, FOUR PEOPLE IN A CAVE ABOVE CATHEDRAL CANYON WATCH THE EVENING SKY, BARELY BREATHING, UNTIL, FINALLY...
...THOUSANDS OF MILES ABOVE THE EARTH, A MAN-MADE STAR SUDDENLY FLARES BRIEFLY, MIGHTILY, BUT HARMLESSLY, TO LIFE.

WOW! OH, WOW. NOTHING LIKE SAVING THE WORLD TO GIVE YOU A GOOD CASE OF WOBBLY KNEES AND GREY HAIR.
CONGRATS, HULK. HOW D'YOU LIKE BEING A HERO?
HULK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.
HULK THINKS BUG-MAN IS LAUGHING AT HULK.
HULK STILL THINKS HE SHOULD... SMASH... BUG... MANNN...
HULK! I MEAN-- DR. BANNER!
SO... TIRED -- SO VERY... TIRED.
REST, DOC. YOU'VE EARNED IT.
MAN?! SPIDEY-SENSE TINGLING!
THE ONE-EYED GUY HAS GOT A GUN!
SPIDER-MAN TRIES TO REACT, BUT BRUCE BANNER'S INERT FORM IN HIS ARMS SLOWS HIM DOWN FOR A FATEFUL SPLIT-SECOND AS-- WITHOUT WORD OR PAUSE-- COL. VAZMIN RAISES HIS WEAPON...
...AND FIRES!
UHN!!
DAD!
BDAM!
WHY, YOU--!!
DR. BANNER, HOW IS HE?!
DAD...?
IT LOOKS BAD, SPIDER-MAN. I'M SORRY, MISS IRONWOOD-- I DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO MAKE IT.
YOU LOUSY, STINKING, MURDERING--!
YOU SHOT HIM DOWN IN COLD BLOOD-- WHY?!
SPI... DER-MAN... STOP. LET HIM... BE.
WHAT--???

DR. IRONWOOD. WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! THIS MAN HAS KILLED YOU!
I... KNOW.
FOR THAT SERVICE...
...I AM... GRATEFUL.

BECAUSE OF ME, THE ANTI-MATTER BOMB BECAME A REALITY-- ONE WHICH ALMOST... DESTROYED OUR WORLD. HOW LONG WOULD IT BE BEFORE OTHERS DEMANDED MY FORMULAE? N-NEXT TIME, MY FRIENDS, WE MIGHT NOT BE SO LUCKY.
ONLY I KNOW THE SECRET-- I DISCOVERED IT PARTLY BY ACCIDENT, NO OTHER RESEARCHER ON EARTH IS EVEN CLOSE--
--LET THAT SECRET DIE WITH ME.

WE LIVE IN A CRUEL-- SOMETIMES DESPERATE-- WORLD. KNOWING OF IRONWOOD'S DISCOVERY, MY MASTERS IN THE KREMLIN COULD NEVER BELIEVE HE WOULD NOT BUILD ANOTHER SUCH BOMB FOR AMERICA.
OUT OF THE FEAR THAT YOU MIGHT SOMEDAY USE IT AGAINST RUSSIA, THEY WOULD STRIKE FIRST, WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NO MATTER WHAT THE TERRIBLE COST.

IT WOULD MEAN THE DEATH OF EVERYTHING. THE HORROR EVERY NUCLEAR WEAPONS PHYSICIST HAS LIVED WITH SINCE THE FIRST A-BOMB TEST AT ALAMAGORDO...
...THE HORROR WHICH COST BRUCE BANNER HIS HUMANITY.
CISSY... LOVE... YOU... I...

AND NOW HAS COST DANIEL IRONWOOD HIS LIFE.
WILL IT CHANGE ANYTHING, DOCTOR?
NOT REALLY.

SO LONG AS THE BOMBS EXIST, THEY'LL GET BIGGER AND BETTER. THERE WILL BE MORE OF THEM AND MORE COUNTRIES WILL HAVE THEM.
AND WE'LL LIVE IN MORTAL TERROR THAT ONE DAY, THEY MIGHT BE USED.

TO CHANGE THINGS, SPIDER-MAN, HUMANITY--AS A WHOLE-- WOULD HAVE TO RISE UP AND SAY "NO MORE BOMBS!" WE'D HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER.
FRANKLY, MY FRIEND, I DON'T THINK WE HAVE THAT KIND OF COURAGE.
FIN